



*Alhim shewing his Sultanas his
Magnificent Buildings.*

Tale 10.



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THE
TALES OF THE GENII;

OR, THE
DELIGHTFUL LESSONS

OF

Horam, the Son of Asmar.

FAITHFULLY TRANSLATED FROM THE
PERSIAN MANUSCRIPT;

And compared with the French and Spanish Editions
published at Paris and Madrid.

BY SIR CHARLES MORELL,

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MENTS IN INDIA to the GREAT MOGUL.

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TALES OF THE GENII.

*The Continuation of the Tales of Sadak and
Kalafrade.*

THE chief of the eunuchs hastened to obey the commands of Amurath; and returning to the dungeon, where Sadak expected the end of his fate, he ordered the mutes to release him.

Sadak, amazed at the order of Doubor, arose; and the mutes having released him, retired.

"Sadak," said Doubor, as the mutes retired, "behold the messenger of thy sultan's mercy, who spares thy forfeit life, because thy vow hath dedicated it to thy master's service!"

"If by thy master's gift alone, O treacherous eunuch, I am to possess my life," said Sadak sternly, "he sends his mercy to a thankless slave. Mercy! dare the tyrant thus miscale the malice of his heart? Is it mercy, then,

to defile my better life, and send the poor remainder an outcast vagabond upon a pander's errand? Go, obsequious eunuch, return to thy proud pampered master, and tell him, Sadak wants not his life upon such slavish terms."

"Alas, unfortunate Sadak! answered the chief of the eunuchs, "what will the big word avail thee! When Amurath perceives that you mean not to execute the vow you have made, he will hold himself no longer bound by that oath the duteous Kalafrade has extorted from him."

"Slave," returned Sadak, "I understand thee not; there is a shew of friendship in thy speech, and yet, methinks, I have more to fear when the wily serpent glides beside me, than when his angry hiss timely proclaims a generous defiance."

"The friendship of humanity," said Doubor coolly, "I owe to all; nor is my heart sufficiently revengeful, even to crush the ungrateful adder that stings me while I cherish him. But, Sadak, I mean not to gall thee with reproach, but as a friend advise thee to submit, where submission only can yield thee hopes of comfort."

"Friendly Doubor," answered Sadak, pausing, "I submit; but the time prescribed is near elapsed—"

"Fear not," answered Doubor; "already orders are given to equip you; and, ere night, you shall be conveyed to one of the Othman ships, with an able commander to steer you to the destined spot. But I can say no more;
Amu.

Amurath expects your answer, and I haste to proclaim your obedience."

Sadak now began to relent, and he accused his heart, in suspecting the integrity of the chief of the eunuchs. But Doubor was fled, and Sadak left alone in the dungeon of the seraglio.

"O Alla!" said the wretched Sadak, "to thy all-just protection I commit my faithful Kalafrade; thou, who over-rulest the princes of the world, canst secure her in the fiery trial: relying on thy arm, she shall stand as the water-fowl on the rock, and see the tempestuous billows of the ocean spend their vain force beneath her, unable to wash with their rude waves the surface of her dwelling-place."

The chief of the eunuchs, having declared to Amurath the obedience of Sadak, waited till the evening; when, entering the dungeon with the guards of the seraglio, they conveyed Sadak through the water-gate to the ship, which was prepared to sail in quest of the waters of oblivion; neither had the noble Sadak, by reason of the attendant guards, any opportunity of expressing his gratitude to Doubor the chief of the eunuchs.

As soon as Sadak was embarked, the ship set sail, and the noble son of Elar found that the captain of the ship was a christian renegade; for Doubor had in vain sought after one of his own nation, who was sufficiently skilled in navigation to perform the voyage.

For several days the ship ran swiftly before the wind, and hurried the unfortunate Sadak

from the place of his beloved, as the vulture bears in his talons the panting lamb from its mother's tears.

But these winds were after a short time succeeded by a calm, in which, being detained from their purpose, and a small gale afterwards arising, the captain of the vessel put into the island of Serfu, and there continued for two months, neither suffering his men to land, nor permitting the natives to enter his ship.

Sadak, though astonished at the behaviour of Gehari the captain, yet attempted not to leave the ship, but spent his time chiefly in solitude and contemplation.

A small vessel, arriving from Constantinople, at length brought the captain the orders he expected; and the wind being favourable, he hoisted his sails, and steered for the Atlantic ocean.

And now they were passing the island of Kirigou, when a storm arose, and after many days buffetting against the wind, obliged them to sail into the bay which embosoms the city of Koron.

It was in vain the citizens made signs for the ship to steer away from their port; the swelling ocean and the fierce winds united, drove them precipitately on the beach, and every one being terrified with the storm, they hastened on shore, leaving the ship at anchor near the beach.

"Unhappy mariners," said an aged citizen to them, as they walked up the beach, "you have escaped the womb of the sea, to be buried in this contagious city."

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The mariners hung down their heads at this dreadful declaration, and Sadak perceived that the plague was raging in the city of Koron.

The captain, whose Mahometan name was Gehari, ordered his crew to seize on Sadak ; at the same time sending notice to the governor of the city, that he bore the commission of Amurath, and had a state-prisoner under his care.

Sadak was amazed at the captain's behaviour, for he knew not before that he was looked upon as a prisoner, or that Gehari had any command over him.

"My lord," said Gehari, "be not alarmed, I have no commission to treat you ill, and if I had, your noble behaviour would prevent the execution of it ; only I was commanded, if possible, not to land on the Othman empire, and if necessity drove me on shore, I was to look upon you as my prisoner."

"Gehari," said Sadak, "use me as you please ; you have the commission of my prince, before whose lawful will I shall ever prostrate my obedient spirit."

It was happy for Gehari, that his prisoner was of a noble temper ; for such was the confusion of the city, that the governor had neither guard nor authority among his miserable subjects.

"Alas !" said Gehari to Sadak, as they entered the city, "to boast a power over you here, were to carry human vanity even beyond the grave. Death and destruction are the rulers of Koron, and desolation tyrannizes over the children of Alla."

"Not

"Not so, noble Gehari," answered Sadak, "thou hast yet but a christian's faith, or thou wouldst learn to acknowledge Alla the father of his children, even in the grave of death.—His hand, O Gehari, is on the famine and the plague; where he suffers, they spread the dark wings of fate, and where he stops, the mighty conquerors fall appeased. But let us boldly enter these gates of sickness, and, while we have strength, administer to those over whom the dark fiend hath thrown the purple mantle of contagion."

The mariners, animated by the words and the example of Sadak, boldly entered the city of Koron; and while the ghastly inhabitants sat trembling and inactive in their houses, Sadak and his companions exercised the compassionate offices of humanity, on the miserable objects that surrounded them.

But his laborious and dangerous employment soon overwhelmed the noble Sadak, and he found the plague had seized his distempered blood.

Listless, and unable to serve others, or to help himself, the wretched son of Elar fell between two carcases, to preserve whom his utmost endeavours had proved abortive.

The miseries that succeeded, nature kindly hid from his remembrance; the disorder possessed his brain, and he lay entranced on the ground in the streets of Koron.

After two days he arose from the ground, his knees tottering with the weight of his emaciated body; he cast his hollow eyes around him,

him, and on every side saw the dismal marks of the all-destructive plague.

But what engaged his chief attention were two youths, who were kneeling on the ground beside an aged body, which was just sending forth his last pestiferous breath, as a deadly legacy between his children. Their pious tears, and their duteous attention to the expiring sage, mixed with a submissive resignation to the will of Alla, struck the soul of Sadak long before he perceived they were the sons of his strength, who were performing the last sad offices to Mepiki, the father of Kalafrade.

"My children, my duteous children," said the enervated Sadak, crawling with trembling limbs to their assistance, "may Alla bless your pious care; you are indeed the sons of Sadak, and the offspring of Kalafrade, and your father is better pleased to see you thus active in this vale of death, than crowned with the conquest of unnumbered foes."

"The astonishment of Codan and Ahud, at the sight of their father, did not prevent their attendance on the dying Mepiki; they closed the eyes of their departing friend with pious tears, and embraced with reverence the dead body of their honoured ancestor.

The soul of Sadak was overcome by the piety of his children, and he whom embattled armies could not move from his post, became the tender victim of paternal affection.

Codan and Ahud, perceiving their father fainting, ran to his assistance; new cares succeeded to increase their affliction, and the dying groans of Mepiki were scarce remembered,
while

while Sadak continued to faint in the arms of his children.

"Thanks, gentle Codan; thanks, tender Ahud;" said Sadak to his children, as he arose from the bondage of weakness; "though nature is exhausted, my soul is revived by the behaviour of my sons, and Sadak rejoices to see the tenderness of Kalafrade triumphant over thy father's fierceness."

"Fountain of our life, and leader of our thoughts," answered Codan, "thy children lift up their hearts to Alla, and bless him for the comforts he has given us in this scene of terrors."

"Ah, my sons," said Sadak, "why should I complain of bodily weakness, when the weakness of my mind is superior; unsatisfied with the presence of my children, I burn to know what strange fatality has brought you to the city of Koron."

"Author of our being," answered Ahud, "thy children have not been exempt from the misfortunes of their parents. Soon after our father left us under the protection of the affectionate Mepiki, a slave hastened toward the hut whither the offspring had retired from the rage of the flame.

'Aged Mepiki,' said the slave, 'retire with the children of Sadak, for behold the royal janizaries are advancing, and Amurath hath commanded the progeny of Sadak to be brought before him.'

"Our aged parent wrung his hands at the relation of the slave; the janizaries were in
sight,

fight, and Codan and myself only with thy father Mepiki.

‘Alas,’ said the parent of our honoured mother Kalafrade, ‘five of my daughter’s children are with the eunuchs at the extremity of the garden, and to us there are little hopes of flight; to them is the certainty of condemnation.’

‘Venerable fire,’ answered the slave, ‘it will be vain to attempt the rescue of those who are absent from my lord; but if you and the children of Sadak will follow me into the forest that overshadows the village, I will engage to lead you in safety from the malice of your pursuers.’

‘Lead me, then,’ replied our fire Mepiki, ‘lead me, faithful slave, from the tyranny of Amurath. For myself, indeed, it little matters whether I perish by age or by the sword; but these may live to revenge the blood of their ancestors.’

“Thus saying, Mepiki leaned on the slave; and Codan and myself drawing our scymitars, we issued forth, and covered ourselves from the sight of the janizaries among the cedars in the forest.

“Here we continued till night, when the faithful slave besought us to follow him thro’ the forest, to a town about four leagues from the habitation of Mepiki.

“Thinking ourselves too near the arm of Amurath, we departed thence the following night to Barebo, and there continued till a vessel, which was trading to Ismir, took us on board, and carried us to that part of Asia.

"We continued in Ismir but a few days. The plague broke out in the suburbs, and raged with such violence, that Mepiki resolved to embark in the first vessel that left the city of Ismir.

"This happened to be a merchant's sloop, bound for Koron, in which we came with favourable gales, and landed not long since in this miserable city.

"The mariners, who came with us, escaped not the pestilence, although they had left the city of Ismir; they were seized with the contagion as soon as they landed, and the disorder raged with such violence, that ere half the moon was elapsed, the whole city groaned under its wretched influence.

"The aged Mepiki for some time shut himself and us up in an inner apartment, hoping to escape the contagion; but when he found the deadly disorder had seized him, he commanded us to carry him forth into the open air, which, in obedience to his will, we performed this morning."

"And have ye, my children," said Sadak hastily, "overcome the contagion, or hath it yet delayed to seize on your youthful frames?"

"We have hitherto," answered Codan, experienced a doubtful life: but seeing our parent has escaped from the danger of the plague, we shall no longer accuse our stars of leading us to the horrors of this place."

"Son," answered Sadak, "to accuse fate, is to rebel against Alla; and no circumstances can justify our imprecations, while our faith must

must assure us, that he is the merciful governor of all our fortunes."

Codan, abashed at the reproof of Sadak, covered his breast with his declining head.

As Sadak held this converse in the desolate streets of Koron, he perceived the captain of the ship drawing near him; but the fire of his countenance was extinguished, and the lamp of life glimmered but palely in the cheeks of Gehari.

"Noble Gehari," said Sadak, turning towards him, "I perceive that equal misfortunes have oppressed us; yet, in this victory of the grave, how much are we indebted to Alla for our wonderful escape!"

"That I should bless Alla," answered Gehari, "is not wonderful, for my enjoyments will probably be restored with my life; but, surely, to the much-injured Sadak death had been a welcome guest!"

"Gehari," answered Sadak, "it is by the gracious Alla's appointment that I bear the standard of affliction; in which post, if I fall, blessed be his will: but while I live, I mean not cowardly to lament my situation."

"Well," replied Gehari, "dost thou unite the determinations of the brave with the submissions of the pious; nor are your virtues useless, for Amurath means to try their utmost strength, and I come, an unwilling slave, to urge your departure from the city of Koron."

"If Gehari will point out the means of my departure," answered Sadak, "I am prepared; but suffer me to take these my children as companions in my toils."

"Ah!" replied Gehari, starting, "are these the sons of Sadak, on whose lives the sultan sets so high a price? Now, Sadak, teach me the duty that I owe my prince, consistent with my friendship for thy noble nature; on pain of Amurath's displeasure, is every one, who owns the Othman sway, bound to discover their knowledge of thy children; and yet sooner shall Gehari perish, than bring such exquisite distress on Sadak's generous spirit."

"Gehari," answered Sadak, "obey thy prince, and let not friendship breed rebellion."

"What, my father," interrupted Codan, "will you tamely yield your sons a prey to tyranny? If so, Mepiki's life is spent in vain; we better had fallen with our brethren, beneath the scymitars of the janizaries, than met at Koron with our father's friend."

"Codan," answered Sadak, sternly, "it ill becomes the sucker to vie with its parent stock; as a father, in tenderness, I should forget your want of filial duty; but rebellion, son, shall meet with Sadak's curse, though his uplifted dagger pierce his Codan's heart: and yet, my son, I would this mighty Amurath, for whom the slaves of Othman live, did weigh in equal balance his own impetuous pleasures, and his people's comfort. Surely, Alla, thou gavest not our lives to be the tyrant's sport, but didst intend the ruler of the faithful should be his subjects' joy! If thou shalt judge hereafter the princes of the earth, for every life in wantonness destroyed, there is not a prince but gladly would exchange his nature with a peasant!"

"Ge-

"Generous Sadak," said Gehari, "dispel the gloom that overwhelms thee, for Gehari means not to betray thy sons: the spirited Codan, and his more submissive brother, shall, if it please thee, partake of their father's fortune. Of all our mariners, but seven have escaped the plague; Codan, therefore, and Ahud, shall supply the place of two of my officers, and the rest we must seek for in some neighbouring port."

"Friendly Gehari," answered Sadak, "how shall I repay thy generous services! Permit us only to hide the corse of our dear parent in the earth, and we will attend thy will."

At those words, Gehari left Sadak and his children, and, calling together his scattered mariners, returned to the ship.

Sadak, in the mean time, assisted his sons in the melancholy office; and having covered up the body of Mepiki, he led them to the vessel which Gehari commanded.

The wind, blowing from the land, soon wafted them from the city of Koron; and Gehari, unwilling to return toward Constantinople, sailed to Medan, and there recruited the number of his mariners.

From Medan, after a tedious passage, they reached the island of Gomerou; where refreshing themselves a short space, they steered to the south, through the wide Atlantic, and approaching toward the sun, they encountered the sultry heats of the torrid zone.

Sadak, though unacquainted with the sea, was not indolent; the day was spent in instructing his sons, and in the night he strove, with

manly courage, to surmount the oppressions of his mind, which were aggravated by the thoughts of Kalafrade's distress.

Having passed the warmer climates, they drew near to the cold regions of the south, and Gehari, perceiving land, steered his vessel toward the shore, and anchored at a small distance from a beautiful island.

Here they found the blessings of plenty; and the mariners, quickly recovering from the disorders of the sea, were enabled to pursue the directions of the bold Gehari, who staid no longer than was necessary to rest his vessel, and renew his stores.

From this island they steered toward the Straights which divide the Atlantic from the Pacific Ocean. But as they approached the land, the wind arose, and the sea beat in tempestuous billows against the vessel of Gehari.

The mariners in vain pointed their vessel to the west; her sides shook, as fearful of the storm, and the ship started from the face of the tempest, as the war-horse trembles in the day of battle.

Sadak beheld the conflicting elements with patience and calmness; but Codan was terrified at the black mountainous ocean, which rose in broken precipices above the masts of the ship.

As the vessel sunk embosomed in hollow sounding billows, so sunk the heart of Codan, and Sadak in vain attempted to give to his son a courageous mind.

“Is

"Is this Codan!" said his father, as he saw him dissolved in tears, and trembling at his fate; "is this the descendant of Elar, who so nobly supported the dying Mepiki? Where, wretched son, is that undaunted mind which formerly endeared thee to thy parents?"

"Pardon, O Sadak," answered Codan, "the misgivings of my soul; it is not for myself, O parent of my life, but for thee, my heart pants, and my strength flies from me: was it not sufficient that Amurath bereaved thee of Kalaf-rade, without sending thee hither amidst conflicting elements?"

"Codan," answered Sadak, "thy fears for me discover a noble soul, and Sadak thanks thee for them; but dismiss them, quickly, Codan."

As Sadak was uttering these words, a tremendous swell broke over the ship, and the wave overwhelmed both Sadak and his son.

The father instantly secured himself by embracing a part of the ship, which saved him from the efforts of the wave; but Codan became a sacrifice to its violence, and was driven over the sides of the vessel into the tumultuous ocean.

It was some time before Sadak recovered from the confusion around, as the sea had nearly stunned him in its passage; but when he found his son was torn from him by the swell, and saw him tossed on the billows, the undaunted Sadak leaped forward, and was about to follow, had not Ahud caught his father in his arms, and prevented his intentions.

"Wretched Ahud," said Sadak, sternly, "art thou jealous of Codan's better spirit, that thou hast dared prevent thy father in rescuing his first-born from the womb of the sea?"

"Protector of thy children," answered Ahud, "forgive my presumption, and let Sadak be preserved for the arms of his Kalafrade: Ahud will either deliver his brother, or perish beside him."

The Continuation of the Tale of Sadak and Kalafrade.

"NO," replied Sadak, preventing the intentions of Ahud, as his son struggled to fling himself into the tempestuous ocean; "I am now satisfied, and Sadak thy father shall restore thy Codan to his brother's arms."

In this tender struggle between Sadak and his son, Gehari advanced, and taking each by the hand——

"Alas, noble friend," said he, "will you increase the misfortunes of Gehari? the good Codan is already the prey of our boisterous enemy, and will you likewise desert me in this perilous storm?"

"We mean," answered Sadak, struggling, "to rescue Codan the beloved of our heart."

"Though I admire your affection," replied Gehari, still preventing the purpose of Sadak, "yet I must not suffer it to overpower your reason. To sacrifice our lives in madness to the memory of our friend, is neither prudent

dent nor courageous; and greater fortitude is exercised in forbearance, than in the vehement sallies of the distempered passion."

"The words of Gehari," answered Sadak, "are as the oil to the wounded on the plain; and we must learn, Ahud, to submit, where Alla hath denied us the conquest of aught but ourselves. Yes, Gehari, to see my breathless son extended on the wave, and yet stand motionless beside him, is far more difficult, than to seek his embrace among the roarings of the ocean: but Alla, O Codan, is present with thee, and Mahomet hath taken charge of thy duteous body; it is we are afflicted by the storm, while thou art warded from this scene of misery to the mansion of the faithful."

The gentle Ahud yielded to the wise dictates of his father, and Gehari prevailed on his friends to desist from their frantic purpose, as the sea was so fierce, that the ship could scarce bear the billows that broke around her.

After some time the storm abated, and Gehari prepared to run through the straits into the Pacific ocean.

The rest of the voyage passed uninterrupted by the wind of the sea; but the serenity of the weather did but ill compensate to Sadak the loss of his first-born.

After fifty days sailing Gehari discovered a great smoke, and in the night could distinguish at a distance flames of fire. These increased every hour, and so greatly terrified the mariners, that Gehari was fearful they would rise up against him, and refuse to proceed in their voyage.

Nor

Nor were the fears of Gehari groundless ; for at their nearer approach, the curling foam of the waves each night appeared as liquid fire, and the ocean glowed like the melting-pot of the refiner. The mariners, aghast, viewed with despair the horrid scene, and the fears which were expressed in their countenance seemed to gather strength from the pale, deadly light which flashed on the broken surface of the sea beneath them.

Overpowered by the gloomy terror, they fell with their faces on the deck, and their captain in vain addressed them with alternate promises and threats.

Sadak perceiving the distress of Gehari, and that their purpose would prove abortive, if they were suffered to persist in their fears, obtained from Gehari permission to arouse them ; and with his drawn sabre, walking into the midst of the prostrate mariners, he thus addressed their coward spirits :

“ Sons of Mahomet, and brethren of the truth, why fall ye thus as the leaves of autumn on the sandy plain ? What conquering enemy cometh against you, whose terrifying aspect you dare not behold ? Or what dangers are those which have subdued the soldiers of our prophet ? Come the infidels of Europe against us ? Or is the all-bartering Christian arisen up in arms to oppose our passage ? If these were in sight, my friends would doubtless arise, and vindicate the faith of Musselmen ; they would start from the slumbers of fear, and put on the manly countenance of war. Shall, then, the harmless wave affright you, when in

sportive gambols he imitates the brisk flashes of a livelier element? Or shall you, who have undaunted seen the ocean's hollow womb, and all its watery caves, now sink in terror back, when the heavy sea casts its languid smiles upon you? These, my friends, are omens of our safety, and assure us of success. But rise, and see me pour this harmless lightning on my hands, and thank our prophet, that in the starless night he makes old ocean light us on our destined course."

Thus saying, the bold Sadak drew from the surrounding waves a bowl of water, which sparkled as it rose, and poured on his hands. The trembling mariners raised up their fearful heads, and viewed with wonder the innocent effect of Sadak's trial, till satisfied by the experiment, they again ventured to arise, each blushing at his causeless fear.

But a few days sailing again recalled their fears. The island was now discovered, and in the middle of it an huge mountain, whose summit reached far above the reflecting clouds, where an uncommon volcano vomited forth a wide deluge of liquid fire, which broke forth from the mountain with terrible roarings, and a mighty sound, as of winds bursting from the deep caverns of the earth.

The glowing deluge descended down the mountain in a sheet of fire, and rushing violently into the sea, drove back the affrighted waves in dreadful hisses from its surface, and for a long time preserved its fiery course beneath the waters that foamed above it.

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The countenance of Gehari was now fixed with astonishment and dread ; he confessed to Sadak that he dared not trust his ship any nearer the island.

" Give me, then," answered the undaunted warrior, " a boat, and a small portion of your provision, and Sadak will alone risk the dangers that surround the fountains of oblivion."

" No, my father," answered the duteous Ahud, " there is yet one left that is ready to share with thee the dangers of this horrid place."

" My son Ahud," replied Sadak, " Codan is no more, and the javelins of Amurath have doubtless, ere this, pierced the hearts of thy brethren : if Sadak perish, yet shall his name live in Ahud, and Kalafrade shall yet have one to revenge her wrongs !"

" It is not revenge alone," answered Ahud, " that thy Kalafrade will require from her Ahud ; she will ask me also for thee, O Sadak ! and when she hears that I refused to share in my father's toils, she will pour on me the imprecations of an heart-broken parent."

" O Sadak," interrupted Gehari, " yield to the duteous voice of Ahud, whose presence with thee may happily be the means of both your future safety."

Sadak, at length overcome by Ahud and Gehari, consented, and the unhappy father and his son descended from the side of the ship into the boat which Gehari had prepared for their reception, while the captain and his mariners poured after them the unavailing tears of friendship and compassion.

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The boat was about three leagues distant from the shore when it parted from the ship, and the wind blowing fair, Sadak steered it briskly for the island of the waters of oblivion.

The nearer they approached, the more tremendous looked the rocks which surrounded the island against which the sea beat and roared, as if it strove in vain for a place whereon it might rest.

Being arrived within half a league, the boat struck on a quicksand, and Sadak could neither move it, nor would the treacherous sand bear his weight when he attempted to wade forward on its surface.

After many fruitless endeavours, he took several small boards, which formed the bottom floor of the boat, and tying them together, made two rafts, which he laid on the sand, and moving one forward while he stood on the other, he thus made some small progress towards the island.

But this was an imperfect attempt, as the raft would bear but one at a time, and Ahud was left an helpless spectator in the boat.

To conquer this difficulty, Sadak returned again to the boat, and by the help of the oars and rudder, he made a third raft, so that Ahud, by following his father's steps, and giving the raft which he stepped from to Sadak, who went before him, they with difficulty moved forward to the rocks that surrounded the waters of oblivion.

The tide had been several hours falling from the rocks, when Sadak arrived under their prominent

minent horrors, and had left a narrow beach, on which he and Ahud rested, after their perilous journey.

Here Sadak and his wretched son recruited their wearied body with such refreshment as they had brought in their garments from the boat, which, though scarce sufficient for the next day's support, was the only means of living they could see before them, unless they should be able to scale the over-hanging precipices, whose heads seemed wrapped in dark clouds that were gathered around their rugged summits.

Sadak and Ahud having refreshed their limbs, arose and went about under the rocks in search of some opening which might afford them an entrance into the island; but ere they could discover any passage, they came in sight of the burning torrent, and were obliged to retire from its destructive influence.

To add to this distress, the tide rushed with violence around them, and the swelling ocean arose on the beach, so that Sadak and his son were half covered by the sea.

Thus wretched, they waded backwards and forwards on the beach, till Ahud discovered a small cavern in the rock, whose bottom the tide had not reached, when Sadak and his son ascended into it.

In this gloomy cavern, which dripped with the salt tears of the ocean, they obtained a few moments relief; but the ascending swell followed them ere long into the cavern, and dashing its rude waves against them, drove them on the ragged face of the rock.

The

The tide, however, rose not above them; but after a long persecution, retired, and left them nearly exhausted by its rude buffetings; and the wretched father and his duteous son, overcome with unnatural toils, slumbered on the sea-weed, which the water had left them for their miserable bed.

Yet short were the slumbers of these afflicted Musselmén? the rocks and the mountains around them were heaved in the night with dreadful earthquakes, and the island trembled with the adventurous Sadak and his son, as the wounded elephant shakes the tottering turret in the armies of the vanquished.

The sea, agitated by contending winds, rose in wild fragments to the clouds; and meteors gleaming through the troubled air cast horrid light upon the watery profound, where monsters rising on the scattered waves, stirred up a new commotion, and waged bloody war among themselves, increasing still the terror of the night with their discordant roarings, which the concave echoing rocks again repeated; and, over all, the thunders from above joined in the general discord.

"Ahud," said Sadak, starting from his sleep, as he beheld the horrid scene before him, "such would all nature be, were evil spirits masters of our fate; but fear not, Ahud, these gloomy rocks hide not this disordered prospect from our prophet's sight; he, through the tumult looks on us, and watches lest our faithless spirits sink from their just dependence upon Alla's power."

"True," answered the duteous Ahud, "O noble parent! and the man whose righteous heart obeys the dictates of his God, may calmly view these desolated scenes."

"In us," replied Sadak, "whose slight frames were formed to tremble at every shock, these visions must awaken fear and horror; but the tumults of the whole ocean, and the crush of the wide earth itself, would be less disgustful to the blessed Alla, than the rebellious workings of a wicked heart, though hidden beneath the gay trappings of a voluptuous infidel. A wicked soul, O Ahud! is more dark and tumultuous than these horrors that surround us; yet often doth the coward run with terror from the lightning's flash, or even from an insect's presence, when he dare cherish in his bosom the most dreadful of monsters, a disobedient and rebellious spirit."

But in the midst of his religious expressions, the afflicted Sadak could not prevent some fears that arose in his mind, when he reflected on the exposed situation of his beloved Kalaftrade; who, since her lord's departure from the seraglio, had suffered far greater terrors from oppression and lust, than Sadak had experienced from the contending elements.

For several days she was permitted, without molestation, to moan the fate of her Sadak, whom she feared would be secretly destroyed by the malice of Amurath.

But the wild Amurath could ill brook his absence from Kalaftrade; every day he sent for Doubor, to inquire how she bore the loss of Sadak; and but for the prudent interposi-

tion

tion of the chief of the eunuchs, he would have teased the fair one every hour with his offensive solicitations.

Doubor, who knew that persecutions would rather inflame than assuage the sorrows of the virtuous Kalafrade, framed daily some new excuse to prevent the applications of Amurath; and at last, when the monarch would be no longer withheld, he went before, and assured Kalafrade that Sadak was safe, and on his search after the waters of oblivion.

The presence of Amurath renewed the sorrows of Kalafrade; she looked upon him as the murderer of her beloved, and all his softness and eloquence met with reproof and severity from the eyes and the heart of the much-injured Kalafrade.

The proud Amurath, vexed at his success, cursed the faithful Sadak; and although his oath prevented him from executing the desires of his heart, yet he resolved to attack the fair one, through those who were dearer to her than her own existence.

Full of these resolutions, he left the fair Kalafrade in wrathful haste, and flew from her presence, as the enraged tyger springs from the pursuit of the valorous huntsmen.

Immediate orders were given to the janizaries to seize on the children of Sadak, who were with their grandsire Mepiki on the opposite shores of Asia. But ere the janizaries could reach the village, the two elder flown away with their aged Mepiki.

Amurath in wrath cursed the janizaries for their neglect, and ordered Doubor to dispose

of the five that were taken in the prisons & the seraglio.

The next morning the malicious monarch appeared before Kalafrade, and commanded her to yield to his desires.

The affrighted Kalafrade, trusting to the monarch's oath, refused to comply; and Amurath, enraged, found one female in the seraglio, who thought herself not honoured by his lascivious offers.

Pride and fury possessed his soul, and he commanded Doubor to bring the eldest of Kalafrade's children before him.

The little innocent was dragged out of the dungeon, and came with trembling limbs into the presence of Amurath.

"Doubor," said the sultan, "unsheath thy scymitar, and sacrifice that accursed pledge of Sadak's love before my eyes.

The heart-wounded Kalafrade, who had long been torn from her children, rejoiced at the sight of Rachal, the eldest of her daughters; and the little Rachal, when she perceived her tender mother, forgot the terrors of the dungeon and the frowns of Amurath, and ran from the chief of the eunuchs, and hid herself in the folds of Kalafrade's garments.

The bold affections of a mother at that instant animated the tender Kalafrade, and folding her daughter in her arms, she passionately embraced the beauteous Rachal, and bedewed her little cheeks with maternal tears.

The mighty Amurath could not behold the scene unmoved; but the thoughts that Sadak was the father of Rachal, soon changed his
breath

breast from pity to malice, and the enraged monarch again commanded Doubor to lead forth the little Rachal to instant execution.

At the voice of Amurath the eyes of Kalafrade glistened with rage, and she viewed the sultan as the lioness darts forth indignant flashes from her eyes, when disturbed in the lonely caverns of the rocks by the adventurous hind.

"Tyrant," said she, "death only shall divide my best-beloved Rachal from these widowed arms; though Sadak might have civil duties to struggle with against his love, a mother knows no superior tie to withhold her from succouring those who were the offspring of her womb, and the children of her breast."

"Doubor," said the wavering Amurath, "what means this foolish heart of mine, that dares not encounter a woman's will! but, slave, thou well mayest read thy master's mind; yet four are left in thy possession, those sacrifice to my neglected love, and teach this stubborn beauty what she owes to Amurath and her prince."

"Ah, what saidst thou, tyrant!" interrupted the distracted Kalafrade; "Shall Camir, the lovely image of his father's strength; shall Elphan, ever submissive to his mother's will; or the fair Ophu, pretty mimic of my playful actions; or the lovely Isadi, sweetly smiling when Kalafrade smiles; shall these dear precious innocents bleed beneath the murdering knife of a slave's hand? O righteous Alla, who gave these pledges of my Sadak's love, in painful labours to my arms, re-

member what I suffered for their lives, and let not a vile wretch at once destroy what thou with many a groan didst bring to light and life!

"Art thou, too, turned to stone by this wild woman's talk," said Amurath to Doubor, "that like a stricken hart, thou pantest for thy breath? Slave, instantly retire, and bring the heads of these early rebels to my sight, who aye so soon the treacherous features of their father's crimes."

Doubor, with slow reluctance, obeying his sultan, left the apartment, and went with downcast looks, to seek the children of Kalafrade in the dungeon of the seraglio.

As soon as the little Camir and Elphan saw the venerable eunuch approach, they ran with sparkling eyes; and seizing on his trembling hands, they lifted up their smiling countenances, and told him they were glad to see him, for the black ill-natured men who had watched them, had given them no provision for the day.

Doubor, who had before secretly cherished the little offspring of Kalafrade, wondered not at the innocent freedom of Camir or Elphan; but the good eunuch's eyes ran down with floods of tears, when he beheld the smiling countenances of those whose blood he was so soon condemned to spill.

Conquered by their artless love and freedom, the tender Doubor took them to his arms, and kissed them with a father's fondness: then, partly drawing forth his shining scymitar, the little family of Kalafrade, frightened

ened at its glittering sight, fled swiftly to the extremity of the dungeon, and Doubor, overcome with friendly tenderness and zeal, thrust the cruel blade back again into its scabbard, and fell to the earth, unable to perform the cruel purposes of his master's will.

While Doubor was thus employed in the murky dungeon, Amurath was not less irresolute in the gilded apartments of Kalafrade; now fully bent to execute his rage on the sweet-smiling Rachal, he drew his crooked scylchion, and made up to the wife of Sadak, when awed by her maternal tenderness, the weapon fell from his hand, and he dared not strike, where every blow would prove a wound to his Kalafrade's peace.

At length, mad with his ineffectual toil, the monarch, with a frown boding severity and wrath, broke suddenly from the apartment of Kalafrade, and beckoning to some mutes that stood at the entrance:—

“Slaves,” said he, “take that little urchin from her frantic mother, and with your griping hands cast over her infant face the rigid countenance of death.”

The mutes, obedient to their master's orders, hastened into the apartments of the much-trembling Kalafrade, and regardless of her entreaties, tore from her struggling arms her daughter Rachal.

The distracted Kalafrade in vain cast her snowy arms around her beauteous daughter; in vain called on Alla, on Sadak, nay even on Amurath, to relieve her; the unmoved wretches in silent steadiness pursued their cruel orders,

orders, and with their barbarous gripe left Rachal in the agonies of death, at the feet of her frantic mother.

Kalafrade being released from the mutes who held her fast, while the rest executed the horrid commands of Amurath, sprang toward the expiring infant, and kneeling on the ground, she took the struggling Rachal in her arms, and pressed her to her panting breast; then lifting up her languishing eyes, wearied with many a fruitless tear—

“O prophet, holy prophet,” said the distracted fair one, “look down on all a mother’s anxious love, and spare my Rachal! spare her, prophet of the just!”

After which, wildly folding her in her arms, the miserable mother poured on her livid face the copious streams of sorrow, and with a sigh that might have pierced even the heart of Amurath, she cried, “Ah, Rachal! Rachal! Heaven spare thee!”

Buried in tears, and sobbing over her child, Doubor, with a pale face and bloody hands, entered before her; and while the faithful eunuch strove to utter his melancholy tale, he saw the afflicted mourner hanging over her expiring infant.

At such a woeful sight, pity touched his aged breast, and the venerable eunuch hastened to her assistance, with all a father’s soft affection.

“Wretched, miserable, and afflicted fair one!” said the trembling eunuch, “what fatal grief has seized thy heart? Ah!” said he, looking on the distorted features of the innocent

cent Rachal, "what rude, murdering fiend hath spoiled this lovely image of Kalafrade's beauties?"

Kalafrade, whose eyes were dim with grief, saw not the eunuch till he came up to her, and poured his lamentations over her wretched infant; but as the fair one eyed his bloody hands, about to take her Rachal from her arms—

"Bloody and relentless villain," said she, "avaunt! thou shalt not feast upon my Rachal's flesh!" Then recollecting herself, "God of the faithful," said she, "it is the murderous eunuch, stained with my children's blood! Steel-hearted executioner! hast thou eaten the hearts of Camir and his brethren? but thou shalt not bereave me of my Rachal's heart."

"My much-honoured Kalafrade," said the affrighted eunuch, "I have no orders to bereave thee of thy beauteous Rachal; I came here seeking Amurath, my lord; but whatever misfortune has befallen thy child, Doubor will gladly remedy the evil."

"What, officious eunuch," said the hasty Kalafrade, "hast thou destroyed, and canst thou also mock my grief? Full well thou knowest the bloody orders of thy master's heart; four of my babes thy murderous hands have stolen for ever from my sight; their bodies are now perhaps cast forth the portion of some ravenous animal, not half so fell in heart as thou and Amurath. O my children! is the dear flesh I have so often printed with a fond mother's kisses, now torn between the fangs

fangs of a merciless beast, or trodden under the feet of black unfeeling slaves!—O prophet, save me from the pangs of such heart-riven thoughts!”

“The righteous Alla knoweth,” answered the chief of the eunuchs, “how Doubor’s heart was racked at Amurath’s command; but here, Kalasrade, I have no command to hurt or to distress; and unless my art deceive me much, I can with ease recal this tender infant into life again.”

“Just reeking from the bloody scene, art thou become an instrument of life, deceitful eunuch!—Ah! forgive me, Doubor! excellent Doubor!” said she, recollecting herself, “dost thou not say thou wouldest recal my dearest Rachal into life again! I will forgive thee.—No,” continued she, pausing, “I never can forgive thy murderous arms.—Alla,” said she, again recollecting herself, “distracted with ten thousand ills, I know not what I utter; but thou, O Alla, knowest all! and not to this base eunuch, but to thee, I lift my expiring Rachal. Thou, Alla, canst call a blessing from his bloody hands, and raise my child to life through him who has already scattered fourfold death among my Sadak’s lovely offspring!”

“The patient Doubor heard with deep anguish of heart the wild and awful ejaculations of the miserable Kalasrade; yet unwilling to lose a moment, he answered not; but pulling out a phial from the folds of his garments, he poured some of its contents into the mouth of the gasping Rachal.

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The powerful medicine wrought a quick change in little Rachal's frame; the strong convulsion ceased, and the reviving female opened its blue eyes, which sparkled with returning life, like the morning star.

As the eyes of Rachal brightened, so flashed with new life and spirit the watery eye-lid of the fond Kalafrade; and much her full heart meant to say, when a mute abruptly entered, and commanded Doubor instantly to attend his lord.

Doubor, leaving the apartments, found the seraglio in confusion. The rebel janizaries proclaimed aloud in the courts the tyranny of Amurath, and their leaders demanded the brave Sadak at the hands of their monarch.

Amurath, fearful of their rage, sent for his faithful Doubor to appease their clamour; and when he saw the faithful eunuch enter before him with bloody hands, his conscience darkened every hope of safety, as the black orb of night, when she spreads her envious mantle o'er the face of the sun.

"Wash, Doubor, in the sea," said Amurath, "those murderous hands; and rather stain the whole Propontis with thy crime, than but one drop of blood appear to rob thy master of his tottering throne. O Doubor! Doubor! what seas of wealth would I not pour forth, to gather up the innocent blood thou hast this day spilled. Go forth, good eunuch, and appease these clamorous spirits; but with thy guilty hand hide thy far guiltier heart, and over all throw the thick specious covering of deceit; and, Doubor, if success attend thy
friendly

friendly cause, Sadak shall be restored to all his honours and his children—His children, Doubor, we will forget. This day, O prophet, save me from destruction, and all my future life be thine!”

Doubor, in obedience to Amurath, endeavoured to go forth among the tumultuous janizaries; but in their rage they would suffer none to speak, unless the brave Sadak was delivered to them.

Doubor returned with pale looks to Amurath's apartments.

“My lord,” said the affrighted eunuch, “it is in vain to stem the torrent. Your enemies increase each moment; and unless Sadak is delivered to them, they vow revenge on thee and all thy slaves.”

“Then, Doubor,” said Amurath, falling, “I am lost indeed; and life, dear, precious life, like a departing friend, will take a short farewell of me.”

“Glory of the Othman race!” answered Doubor, “suffer not your fears to interrupt your safety, but send some slave among the janizaries, and promise, in a few hours, to give them Sadak; in the mean time I will remove thy best effects through the water-gates, and we may fly to some neighbouring city, where thy loyal subjects shall still defend their sultan against these bold, undaunted rebels.”

“Friendly Doubor,” said Amurath, “thy words recall my sinking spirits; and Doubor, neglect not, among my mutes and slaves, to carry fair Kalasrade with thee.”

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The honest eunuch sighed at his master's words: but in such perilous circumstances he thought obedience was a double virtue.

With the fair Kalafrade, wondering at her fate, Doubor conveyed the reviving Rachal to the shores of Asia, whom Amurath soon followed, disguised like a mute, among the slaves of the seraglio.

The faithful Doubor led the royal family to Iznimid, and there proclaimed the arrival of Amurath, and the rebellion of the janizaries.

Abdulraham, the governor of Iznimid, immediately assembled the troops of the province; and the royal standard being displayed, the army of Amurath increased daily.

During these preparations, Kalafrade was confined in the women's apartments of Abdulraham's palace, and the little Rachal was suffered to attend on her wretched mother.

The janizaries of Constantinople having chosen the brave Boluri for their general, after they were apprised of the departure of Amurath, resolved to march to Iznimid, to attack the royal troops, before they were sufficiently strengthened by the neighbouring provinces.

The governor Abdulraham went out to meet the forces of Boluri; but the battle soon proved favourable to the rebels, and messengers arrived from the defeated Abdulraham, advising Amurath to leave Iznimid, and fly to some other city.

Boluri, elated by his success, the next day marched to Iznimid; but the royal tyrant was

fled to a neighbouring castle, with a number of friends, who came too late to join the forces of Abdulraham,

Here, in a place defended by nature, the sultan and his family remained several months; during which time, the rebels were unable to force the defenders of Amurath from their impregnable castle.

A long and fatiguing siege succeeding, many of the janizaries grew tired of a war where there were no hopes of plunder; and Boluri, fearful that Amurath might recover all, if suffered to depart from the castle, would not listen to the advice of his soldiers, who wished him to rove over the provinces of Asia, and plunder those who would not acknowledge his authority.

This misunderstanding produced discontent in the rebel army, and many of the officers, seeing there was little prospect of plunder under Boluri, secretly offered to give him up, if Amurath would pardon his janizaries.

Amurath with great joy accepted the unexpected terms; Boluri was privately strangled in his tent, and the janizaries laid down their arms at the feet of Amurath.

The royal monarch being thus re-instated, forgot his obligations to those who had betrayed Boluri, and he commanded the ring-leaders of the rebel army to be destroyed.

Thus secure from a second insurrection, he marched back at the head of his army to Constantinople; and soon reducing the rebellion there, he in a short time found himself re-instated in the seraglio of his ancestors.

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But now forgetful of his former dangers, his heart beat with new passion for Kalafrade ; and fixed again on his throne, he wondered that a weak oath should so long have withheld him from the rapturous possession.

Doubor, apprised of his master's thoughts, laboured in vain to prevent the breach of his oath ; and Amurath found, that while his faithful slave stood beside him, he should ever meet with an opposition that he could not brook.

To remove this obstacle, the vicious sultan ordered Doubor to repair on a trifling message to Iznimid, resolving to force Kalafrade to his will, during the absence of his officious eunuch.

While these dark clouds were gathering over the miserable Kalafrade, Sadak and his son were the victims of the storm ; beneath the rocks of the island of Oblivion, and on the same night that Doubor departed from Iznimid, Ahud and his father were buffeted by the tempest and the storm.

But the piety of Sadak, and the submission of Ahud, alleviated in some measure the dreadful hours of that night of horrors, till day arose, and chased from their eyes the gloomy visions of the night ; but with the friendly day returned again the unfriendly tide, buffetting their bruised limbs, and smothering them with its waves, as the insect which preys upon the plantain-leaf is washed by solstitial showers.

After waiting with patience the reflux of the tide from their cavern, Sadak, unwilling

to lose the benefits of the day, led Ahud out on the narrow beach, while as yet they were forced to wade through the sea, and directing their steps toward the left, they endeavoured to surround that part of the island which was opposite to the burning torrent.

This toilsome journey, though executed with the utmost difficulty and hazard, was yet as hopeless as the former; the black rocks, which had been hollowed by the waves, hung in rude arch-work over their heads each step they took, and formed a continued barrier, without any interruption, except where the sea broke inward in deep eddies, and formed in the fissures of the rock the giddy whirlpool.

Wearied with this fruitless search, the wretched Sadak led his duteous son back to the cavern, before the swelling ocean rose again to exercise his severity on them; and after having encountered its fury, they gladly sunk into a repose, which lasted till the returning tide obliged them to rise.

But now their provision being exhausted, or spoiled by the water, still severer distresses encompassed them, and the miserable Sadak beheld his son wasted with fatigue, and overcome with hunger and thirst.

One drop of wine yet remained in a little vessel, which he had fastened to his sash; this the tender parent offered to pour on the parched tongue of his afflicted Ahud, and this the duteous son refused, and with uplifted hands pressed the vessel toward his parent's mouth. An affectionate struggle ensued, and the

the duties which arose from nature prevailed over nature ; till Ahud, receiving strength from the dictates of duty, started up, and before his father was aware, suddenly forced the liquor into his mouth ; then falling on his knees at his feet—

“ Ever-honoured parent,” said the trembling youth, “ forgive the first disobedience I have practised against you ; let these tottering limbs bear witness what terrors possess my soul, in that I have dared to exert my strength against the author of my being. Pardon,” said he, “ O father ! rather strike me to the earth for my presumption, and cast from thy sight these rebel arms which have prevailed against thy reverend image.”

“ O Ahud, my son ! my son !” said Sadak, stooping, “ Alla shall doubtless bless thy filial prowess : thou hast indeed prevailed, most noble youth ; but thou hast prevailed in duty, and art thy father’s superior in the triumphs of affection ; yet how dear, O my son, shall thy victory prove, if, to add a few moments to a father’s age, thou hast suffered the fair blossoms of thy own life to wither and decay !”

The words of Sadak gave comfort to the duteous soul of Ahud, and the cravings of hunger were suspended while he heard the sweet rewards of his duteous labours : but short were the pleasures of Ahud ; excessive thirst parched up his lips, and his supplicating eyes looking upwards on Heaven and Sadak, expressed the silent anguish of his heart.

“To see thee thus, O my son,” said the distracted Sadak, falling upon him, “is worse than the death thou hast for a moment driven from me. Oh, cruel Ahud! I will recall my forgiveness, for thou hast robbed me of a life far dearer than my own.”

As Sadak spake these words, the wretched Ahud, overcome by his hunger, fastened on his own flesh, and greedily sucked the issues of his life; which unnatural relief for a short time subdued his thirst, and he waited with patience till the tide permitted them again to go in search of some escape from their distresses.

Passing along the narrow beach, Sadak observed the water pouring from a small fissure in the rocks.

“Ahud,” said the miserable Sadak, his eyes sparkling with the distant hope, “let us watch till the tide turn, and observe whether the water returns through the fissure of the rocks.”

Ahud rejoiced in his father’s hopes, and the two descendants of Elar sat waiting in silence on the fragments of the rocks.

The conjectures of Sadak were right; at the return of the tide the waters formed a whirlpool, and were drawn inwards through the fissure of the rocks.

“Whatever be our fate,” said Sadak, “this passage only seems to promise us the means of life; for on this beach, ere two suns are passed, we must perish by famine; wherefore, Ahud,” continued his father Sadak, “let us plunge together through this dark eddy, and either meet

meet an end to our toils, or a reward to our labours."

"Father," said Ahud, faintly, "let us not attempt together the dangers of this whirlpool; but as I have less means of life remaining in me than yourself, I will first explore the secrets of this watery cave."

Thus spake the duteous Ahud, not expecting any relief from the undertaking, but desiring to prolong the life of his honoured parent.

Sadak, hoping his son might succeed, yielded to his entreaties; and Ahud having promised, if possible, to return with the ebbing tide, plunged into the foaming whirlpool, and disappeared from the sight of his anxious father.

For a few moments the heart of Sadak was buoyed up with pleasing expectations, and he doubted not but Ahud was already in the land of plenty; but, as the wretched parent looked on the foaming whirlpool, and saw its tumultuous eddies roll unculphed beneath the rocky bed whereon he stood, his weakened spirits sunk within him, and he cried out in the agonies of despair, "O Ahud, my son! my son! O treacherous ocean, thou hast robbed me of both my sons!"

The tide rising, obliged him to return to his cavern, where the emaciated Sadak sat wringing his hands, weeping for his children, and bemoaning the fate of his miserable Kalafade.

The calls of hunger also increased with his distress, and he cut the sandals from his feet,
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and knawed from them a poor lifeless sustenance, till the waters prevailing, obliged him to combat that resistless fury.

The next tide the worn-out Sadak returned to the fissure in the rocks, and although the waters passed out, yet Ahud appeared not on their surface.

Sadak now waited impatiently the return of the tide, and with the first wave that entered, in leaped the adventurous hero into the jaws of the whirlpool.

For several moments he was hurried through the rocks, and bruised and wounded on all sides by their rugged points, till light appeared through the waters, and he found himself in a deep cave, surrounded with rocks, and open at the top.

The rocks growing wider and wider, formed an irregular ascent, and with some difficulty the wounded Sadak crawled upwards, till he had attained to the summit of the rocks.

Here he found an extended country, irregularly planted with fruits and herbs, and plentifully watered with little rivulets gushing out of many parts of the earth.

As Sadak looked round on this delightful prospect, he fell with his face to the earth, and said—

“O Alla, thy creature poureth forth his praises towards thee, and the wretch whom thou hast blessed adoreth thee for thy bounty!”

As Sadak spake these words, the pleasant vision faded from his sight, and he found himself

self cast forth by the waters on the beach from whence he had leaped in the morning.

The heart of the unfortunate warrior fell at the sight, and the spirits of Sadak were nearly overwhelmed at the unexpected change.

"But hold," said the submissive Sadak, "if this change cometh through my devotions to Alla, blessed be that change, for Sadak had rather acknowledge his God on the barren rocks, than forget him in the mansions of festivity."

As Sadak spake these words, he perceived the eddies of the whirlpool to rise with an unusual swell, and a female in vestments of gold came forth from its surface.

"Righteous Sadak," said the genius Adiram, "I rejoice in thy fortitude, and I am happy in being the messenger of thy comfort; but ere I unfold to thee the wonders thou hast seen, permit me to lead thee in security to that place, from whence so lately thou wast torn as a sleeper from his dream."

So saying, the waters ceased from the fissure, and the genius and Sadak descending into the cave, shortly after attained to the summit of the rocks, where Sadak had before seen the plains of plenty.

As Sadak arrived on the plain, "Now," said the genius Adiram to him, "arise and satisfy thy exhausted nature, and then I will instruct thee in the lessons of our race."

"But first," answered Sadak, "O Genius, since such is human weakness, that even seeming good may be real mischief intended, let me

me address myself to that God in whom no one shall be deceived! for, if I partake of these viands, he first whom I serve shall be blessed for his bounties."

As Sadak spake thus, he fell on the earth, and said:

"O Alla! thy creature poureth forth his praises toward thee; and the wretch whom thou hast blessed, adoreth thee for thy bounty."

"This noble instance of thy gratitude and dependence on Alla," said the genius Adiram, "is even beyond my hopes of thee, O Sadak, thou highly beloved! to be brave and duteous when misfortune cometh, is the lot of many, but few have fortitude to withstand temptations of pleasure, and the delusions of security: as joy approaches, the knowledge of Alla vanisheth from the minds of mortals; and when the prize is attained, the elated conqueror looketh not on him that bestoweth it. The delusions of self-sufficiency arise out of ease, and man looketh on the undeserved gift, and calleth it a reward, and the price of his merit: but happy is he who receiveth with thankfulness, and forgetteth not, that to Alla belongeth the praise and the glory."

"O bountiful Genius," answered Sadak, "though much I am fortified by thy religious dictates, yet doth my heart pant after Ahud, whom I have lost, and after Kalafrade, whom I left in a tyrant's power."

"As to Ahud," answered the genius Adiram, "his fate cannot yet be enrolled to thy sight; and Kalafrade still suffers for her con-
temp

tempt of that life which Alla had commanded her to preserve. Ah, poor Kalafrade! the bird of Adiram can no longer comfort thee, and the oath of a lawless tyrant is as a flaxen band around the flaming pile! but haste and pursue the waters of oblivion; for many dangers yet surround thee; yet thou hast well learned to be most aware when perils are unseen. Thy way is onward to the flaming mountain in which the waters are hidden."

The genius Adiram then departed from the sight of Sadak; and after the laborious warfare had finished his repast, he walked onward toward the burning mountain.

The plain whereon he walked led him into a deep valley, overgrown with bushes and trees, through which he broke with the utmost difficulty; and when unsupported by the branches of the trees, he fell into watery bogs, where he had perished, but for the broken fragments and boughs which he had gathered to prevent his sinking.

Having passed this morass, he arrived at a river, which ran among the rocks, whose source sprung from a wild cataract, which came foaming with a terrible noise in two divided torrents down the rocks.

Here the astonished Sadak stood looking on the frightful water-fall in wild amaze, and stunned with the rapid dashing of the torrent, for some time paused, unable to pursue his course, or retreat from the dizzy scene.

No way appeared to pursue his journey, unless he dared venture up the craggy precipice, which broke the two cataracts, and dividing

viding the roaring currents from each other by its bed of stone.

Toward this middle rock, the brave warrior crept, his nature trembling at the bold determinations of his heart; and although his eyes swam, and his imagination tottered, yet the steady Sadak seized on the rock, and arose by degrees on its prominent fragments.

The foam and the surf of the neighbouring torrents washed him as he arose, and the noise of the impetuous currents overpowered him, so that he heard not the fall of several rocky fragments, which came tumbling on every side.

After this fatigue, and scrambling upward, he reached a broad, flat, prominent rock, whereon he laid his wearied body, and looked downward on the waves below. Ten thousand colours played in his eyes, and the rock, whereon he lay extended, seemed, in his fancy, to break, and falling with him, to tumble headlong through the forming waves.

Fear seized his body, though fortitude possessed his soul; and nature, tired of the struggle, kindly stole him from himself, and consigned him to oblivion: for a few minutes he lay entranced, and as he waked, forgetful of his situation, he rolled over to the brink of the rock, and was falling downward, when he clasped the rock, and secured himself with his hands. Having gained his former situation, by long struggle and labour, he ventured not to look down from the precipice he had escaped, but turning his eyes upward, he perceived he had

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yet a third part of the rock to climb, ere he could reach the top.

His perseverance in a short time prevailed, and Sadak stood on the utmost summit of the rock, from whence he looked ever an extended lake to the burning mountain, whose smoke and eruptions darkened the air, and filled it with sulphureous stench.

To pass this lake, Sadak determined to plunge into it, and swim across; but he saw, that unless he could steer between the two currents, he should be hurled headlong down the perpendicular torrent.

Unabashed by the danger, Sadak boldly leaped into the flood, and striking forth his limbs with the utmost dexterity, in a short time gained the opposite shore of the lake.

Here the hot cinders, blown from the mountain, fell in black showers upon him, and scorched his raiment and his flesh; till Sadak gathering a large bundle of wet flags, which grew on the watery banks, he tied them with his sash, and placed them over his head, for his security against the burning coals.

In this manner he marched onward, the hot soil scorching his feet, and the sulphureous stench blasting his lungs, till he perceived an huge cave, through which ran a rivulet of black water.

Sadak, doubting not but this was the water of oblivion, ran eagerly into the cave, and saw at the extremity of it a fair virgin, sitting in a musing posture.

At the sight of Sadak the virgin arose, and welcomed his arrival.

"Noble stranger," said she, "it is now two hundred hegras since any one has been able to reach this scene of horrors; but to you it is given to taste the waters of oblivion, and to enjoy the blessings of our immortal race."

As the virgin uttered these words with a pleasing aspect, she drew of the fountain in a goblet of gold, and presented the dark waters to Sadak; who, turning the goblet from him with an easy motion, thus replied to the solicitations of the blooming virgin—

"Fair keeper of these enchanting mountains, excuse my refusal; it is not for myself that I seek the fountain of oblivion: bound by a fatal oath, I come a miserable exile from the Othman throne, to seek a death more cruel by succeeding, than others have found who failed of success."

"Then drink of this refreshing stream," answered the virgin, "and forget the curses which Amurath hath heaped upon thy head; here drown thy former anxious thoughts, and rise refreshed in the lethargic stream, to untried scenes of pleasure and amusement: thy sins, thy follies, and thy pains forgot, here take a blessed renewal of thy life; the past be blotted from thy care-worn breast, the future all in prospect, all untried; then shall the golden dream of hope spring forth afresh, and the gay vision of unbounded joy again dance on thy sprightly fancy; wealth, power, and beauty, rich in possessions, eminent in fame, in ecstasy dissolved, shall all by turns solicit thy divided mind, while not a thought of what thou once
hast

hast felt, shall ere again molest thy troubled brain."

"Such pleasures," answered Sadak, sternly, "may captivate the wretch, whose conscience wishes all the past one universal blot; but Sadak has not lived to wish the thread of life unravelled and destroyed. No, virgin; though great are the ills I feel, yet this, in every ill, supports my mind, I have not sought, nor yet deserved, the evils that I suffer."

"For the weak child of man to boast," replied the virgin, "argues neither sense nor merit: conceited, vain, and ignorant, their path of life is stained with error, and perplexed with doubt; purblind, they grope along, in the bright meridian day, and every action past, they wish undone."

"It is not presuming on a well-spent life, that I refuse your boon," replied Sadak to the virgin of the cave; "but conscious of no studied ill, I thank my prophet for his mercies past, and value the great Alla's former gifts too largely, to desire oblivion may prevent my future thanks; whatever afflictions are endured, were meant as blessings, to increase my faith! these surely to forget, were base ingratitude. Whatever are the blessings that Sadak has received, these yet reflect new comforts on my soul, and these to lose, were little to deserve the future mercies of my God. No, virgin; one moment's recollection of Kalafraze's truth, is more delightful, far to me, than years of pleasure with a second flame. Though dead, shall I forget thee, Codan! whose pious cares so lately honoured good Mepiki's grave!—

Though lost to me, yet never from my mind shall Ahud's righteous image pass! Ahud, duteous name! who, doubtless now beyond life's tyranny, quaffs the pure milky streams of Paradise above, richly repaid by his kind prophet, for those few drops of life he nobly gave the fountain whence he sprung. Hail! righteous suffering family of Elar! And thou, great parent of my life, look down, and curse this ungrateful head, when Sadak wishes to forget thy truth! Perhaps, partaking of this stream, I might turn Christian, and sell my God for some base bargain; or, like the evil Genii, lift up my rebellious arm, and brandish my weapons against the Almighty power."

"Noble Sadak," answered the virgin, "thou alone art worthy to succeed, who hast learned rightly to value the gift thou hast obtained: take, then, this goblet, and carry to thy prince these waters of oblivion, and fear not the toils of returning; for as soon as thou art in possession of the goblet, thou shalt stand at the gates of the seraglio of Amurath."

"But, gentle virgin," replied Sadak, "ere I receive from thy hands this inestimable gift, inform me, I beseech thee, where is the duteous Ahud, the glory of my years."

"Ahud," answered the virgin, "is hidden from my knowledge; but let this content thee, that thou alone hast prevailed, and been able to bear from hence the waters of oblivion."

Thus speaking, the virgin gave into Sadak's hand the golden goblet; and as he received it, the cave and fountain rolled off in a dark cloud from

from before him, and Sadak found himself at the gates of Amurath's palace.

The janizaries, who recollected the features of their long-lost general, shouted for joy, and the populace in tumults proclaimed the arrival of Sadak.

The slaves of Amurath hastened to inform him of Sadak's arrival, and the eunuchs of the seraglio brought him without delay before the impatient sultan.

As Sadak entered the royal apartment, with the goblet in his hand, he perceived Amurath sitting with a disturbed visage on the embroidered sofa.

Sadak thrice prostrated himself before him, and Amurath, with a frown, commanded his slaves and attendants to retire.

"What, slave," said the royal tyrant, as Sadak arose, "hast thou succeeded in thy employment? or dost thou bring thy forfeit head a tribute to thy prince?"

"Lord of the Othman race," answered Sadak, "the great Alla, whom I serve, hath blessed the cause of thy slave, and Sadak is returned with honour and success to the Othman court."

"Curse on thy honours, vain slave," replied Amurath hastily, "and cursed be the pride of thy heart: thinkest thou that thou shalt triumph over thy prince? that Alla hath reserved for thee joys superior to those which Amurath possesses?"

"The blessings of Alla," answered Sadak, "have refreshed my heart, and the bounteous

smile of my all-gracious Maker hath enlightened my soul in every horror I have passed."

"Blasphemous slave," said Amurath, rising in haste, "thou lyeest! Alla meant not to bless thee beyond thy lord, but has buoyed up thy heart with treacherous hope, to make thy disappointment greater. Yes, slave, thy master has resumed himself, destroyed thy children, and blessed Kalasrade with these outstretched arms, that thou mightest curse thy God, and die."

"Hast thou prevailed, thou tyrant?" said Sadak trembling, "then welcome the black contents of this infernal bowl, for now oblivion's all I ask."

"Slaves," said Amurath, clapping his hands, "seize from the frantic slave that precious bowl! it were luxury too great for him to taste and to forget."

As Amurath uttered these words, the slaves of the seraglio entered, and wrested the goblet from the struggling Sadak.

"Give me this, or death," said Sadak, to the slaves around him.

"No, pious wretch," answered Amurath, "it is I alone have blessings for thy heart; chained to a damp-dungeon's side, each day I will visit, and provoke thy memory with all the joys I lately tasted in thy Kalasrade's arms. When, with amorous struggles, the half-reluctant female gave denial to my fondness, and increased my flame; when heaving on love's tumultuous ocean, her breath my gale, her tears my sea, I seemed like the proud Vegetian on his holy festival."

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"Thy faith, thy oath, thy honour lost; call not, base Amurath," said Sadak, "on Alla more: e'en yet, since death and oblivion are denied me, I'll triumph over thee; for in all the curses that afflict poor Sadak's heart, none can overwhelm his conscience with such shame as thine."

"Slave," replied Amurath, "thy speech is free; I love to hear thy pious resignation; but death o'ertakes thee, if again thy words reflect dishonour on thy prince; for think not, wretch, so meanly of me, that I approve of broken vows: none are so hardened, but must tremble, though they cannot relent: yes, slave, the joys I felt with my fond mistress, leave an irksome sting behind them, and while I triumph over thee, I curse myself; but these dull thoughts shall be driven from my anxious breast. The waters of oblivion are designed for mine, and for Kalafrade's peace; wherefore, bring me, slaves, the refreshing goblet, for my gloomy soul pants for oblivion, and I long to sin, and think it virtue. Slaves, give me the goblet. Now, welcome peace! and conscience, thou base intruder, a long farewell to all thy wretched admonitions! But, slaves, remember, ere I drink this, Sadak dies."

As Amurath spake thus, he received the golden goblet from the hands of the slaves, who had rescued it from Sadak; and looking with a ferocious smile on the wretched husband of Kalafrade, "See, Sadak," said he, "how greatly Amurath doth honour to his slave: I drink this bowl, to be like thee, and fair Kalafrade."

lafrade, having tasted its sweet contents, shall look on Amurath, and think him Sadak."

The greedy monarch then raised the goblet to his lips, and drank of the dark liquor it contained, which quickly spread its fatal influence through his veins, and the disappointed Amurath too late perceived, that with oblivion death goes hand in hand.

Sadak, surprized, started at the unexpected effects of the deadly goblet; and the slaves of Amurath, who ran to his assistance as he fell, finding their endeavours to recover him ineffectual, now fell trembling at the feet of Sadak, whom they imagined the janizaries would doubtless place on the Othman throne.

"Lord of our lives," said the minions of the seraglio, "Alla hath justly punished the wretched Amurath for his broken vows, and thy slaves wait thy commands, to cast his wretched carcase forth a prey to the fowls of the air."

"Wretches," said Sadak sternly to them, "I seek not the power you are so ready to bestow: let the faithful Doubor be called, that the subjects of the Othman throne may be acquainted with their loss."

"Heir to the Othmon glory," answered the slave, "Doubor, by Amurath's command, is gone to Iznimid on the affairs of state."

"Then," said Sadak, "carry forth the body of our departed sultan, and shew his pale limbs to the brave soldiers of the court, to whom (since no successor by inheritance or will is left) the choice of a new monarch falls. As to myself, tell them, I seek no honour, curst in
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all I hold most dear. To me honour were a grievous burden. Kalafrade, the virtuous Kalafrade, is defiled, and Sadak shall retire for ever from the world!"

The report of Sadak's arrival, and the death of Amurath, was now spread through every part of the seraglio; and while part of the officers hastened to acknowledge Sadak for their sultan, others found out the melancholy Kalafrade, and declared every circumstance of the joyful news to the mourning fair one.

"Is he returned!" said the transported Kalafrade; "is Sadak, my lord, unnumbered with the dead! then are my past sorrows like the vision of the night, and I again shall rise to a joyful day of constancy and love: but lead me instantly," continued she, "to his beloved presence, that I may bless his conquering arms with love, and clasp him once again within these fond encircling arms!"

So saying, she halted with the slaves to the apartment where Sadak stood, with his surrounding guards; and flying in transports, she fell at his feet, and bathed his sandals with her overflowing tears.

Sadak saw her approach, with a mixed countenance of love and terror; and his soul, divided by affection and resentment, knew not how to supply his tongue with a proper utterance: but, perceiving her at his feet, the tender, wretched husband stooped to the earth, and bowed himself before her.

"What! noble partner of my thoughts," said Kalafrade, in amaze, "art thou dumb with joy? Oh, foolish wretch!" continued she, why

why came I suddenly into the presence of my beloved! My loved, my honoured Sadak, behold thy tender wife, and blest me with one look of love.—Alas! guards, (said she, turning to the eunuchs, as she perceived Sadak still immoveable, with his face to the earth) surely the death of Amurath hath not seized on Sadak; my beloved hath not drank of the pernicious goblet!”

“Oh, that I had drank thereof!” said Sadak, groaning, “when I stood before the virgin at the fountain of oblivion!”

“Speakest thou, my beloved?” said the affrighted Kalafrade; “speakest thou, my beloved! and not to me? Oh! oh! am I changed, my beloved? or, art thou not Sadak?”

The tender Kalafrade shrieked at these words, and fell into the arms of her attendants.

At the shriek of Kalafrade, Sadak rose in wild haste, and clasped her in his arms.

“Partner of my soul,” said he wildly, “look on thy much-injured lord; look up, Kalafrade! it is Sadak calls thee.”

“Dost thou call?” said Kalafrade, faintly; “dost thou, O Sadak! on whom my soul hangeth, call thy Kalafrade back to life? Oh, Alla, spare me yet, for I am Sadak’s!”

“Oh, that thou wast!” said Sadak, relapsing at the dreadful thought. “O that thou wast thy Sadak’s only! that I could again press thee to my heart, and call thee only mine!”

“I am, my Sadak, I am only thine,” replied the faint Kalafrade; “thine only could I be. Not Amurath, and all his lawless power, could

could ever tempt a thought from Sadak's love."

"Wretched Kalafrade," said Sadak, sternly, "Alla knows my heart bleeds at thy distress; yet seek not meanly to disguise the dark sins of tyranny and lust: thou canst not surely be so base, to wish thy Sadak in polluted arms!"

"Oh, Alla," replied Kalafrade, "what means my lord! By all our righteous constancy and truth, I swear, thou never hast been injured in Kalafrade's love."

"Vain woman," replied Sadak hastily, "strive not to deceive me; the lawless tyrant boasted of his crime, and cursed my ears with the description of his injurious lust."

"At these words Kalafrade looked in wild amaze at her offended lord; and her eyes, unwilling to express resentment, melted into tenderness and love.

The constant Sadak saw the sufferings of his beloved, and his conscience checked him for increasing the distresses of his injured wife.

"Forgive," said he, running to her, "forgive, O virtuous Kalafrade! the cruelties of thy Sadak; thou camest, seeking ease and consolation from thy lord, and I have doubled the curses of Amurath upon thy much-suffering heart."

"One word, though but one echo, of my Sadak's love," answered the afflicted fair, "blots all resentment from Kalafrade's heart."

"Whate'er is past, though grating to my soul, thine were the keenest pangs," said Sadak in return: "but to hold converse on a public stage, where love, or where misfortune is the theme,

theme, but ill befits the tender sufferers; wherefore retire, my best Kalafrade, and when the royal janizaries have heard my tale, I will come and weep with thee in mutual wretchedness."

The fair Kalafrade bowed at her lord's commands, and left Sadak with his surrounding nobles.

Sadak having given audience to the officers of the army, the vizirs and the bashaws of the Othman court declined their proffered honours; but the voice of the multitude prevailed, and he was constrained to bear the weight of empire on his brow.

The shouts of the faithful rent the air with notes of triumph, when Sadak yielded to his people's supplication.

In the midst of their clamour, a messenger arrived in the seraglio, and declared the approach of Doubor from Izninid.

A gleam of comfort shot through Sadak's soul, as he heard the name of Doubor pronounced, and he sent his vizirs to welcome his arrival, and bring him into the presence of his friend.

The faithful Doubor soon arrived; and having learnt from his friends the wonderful change, fell prostrate at the feet of Sadak.

"Since he whom Doubor long revered is dead," said the faithful eunuch, "Doubor rejoices at the public choice of Sadak's virtue to succeed him; yet forgive me, royal master, if Doubor play the courtier but awkwardly before thee. Born for his service, I lived in the smiles of Amurath my lord, and let these tears

bear witness for me : I cannot e'er forget so great a master."

"Doubor," said Sadak, sternly, "thou art not the only afflicted soul that Amurath hath left behind him : deep are his curses stricken on Kalafrade's heart, and woes unutterable are Sadak's portion."

"Surely, my lord," returned Doubor the chief of the eunuchs, "the mighty Amurath did ne'er presume to break his oath?"

"Yes, he broke it, slave; nay, more, and triumphed in his sin," said Sadak, fiercely; "and thou, I fear, hast borne a part in all his vengeful malice : all other evil I with patience bore ; but this extremest cruelty loads my distracted thought past human sufferance."

"My lord," answered Doubor, "permit me to lead thee to fair Kalafrade's apartment ; I yet must hope, some mystery unravelled hurts your peace."

"To soothe with words ambiguous, when misfortunes past can never be redeemed, is a slave's province," said Sadak ; "but Sadak has a soul not to be lulled by women's tales ; for know, tame wretch, I have already seen Kalafrade, and viewed the graceful ruins of my once-loved wife.—O prophet ! prophet ! where was thy all-seeing eye, when to unhallowed lust thou gavest up the purest of her sex?"

"Noble and royal Sadak," answered Doubor, prostrate on the earth, "I beseech you to consider what mighty ills you heap on fair Kalafrade, if, unheard, you cast her from your presence, and accuse our prophet, whose bound-

less mercy, like the mountains, shades, preserves, and comforts every faithful mind."

"Doubor," replied Sadak, "thou ever wast to God and man an acceptable slave, and duly temperest submission to thy prince with faithfulness to Alla. I yield, good Doubor: lead the way to dear Kalafrade's apartments, and Alla grant success attend our search."

The chief of the eunuchs, preceding the trembling Sadak, led him to those apartments of the seraglio, where he had formerly been seized by the guards of Amurath; and commanding the doors to be flung open, Sadak discovered Kalafrade sitting on the sofa, with her surrounding attendants.

At sight of Sadak, the beauteous sultana arose, with wild distracted looks; and turning to her slaves—

"Who is this," said she, "who basely apes the majesty of Othman's prince? Whoe'er thou art, bold slave," continued she, "depart, or, by my beauties, the god-like Amurath shall sacrifice thee to our mutual loves!"

"O prophet of the just," said Sadak, hastening to her, "what means this wonderous change—'Tis Sadak, my beloved; Sadak, who comes to be convinced thou never hast submitted to base Amurath's love."

"Submitted, wretch!" said Kalafrade, with an haughty frown: "dost thou, then, call the royal presence of the love-bringing Amurath an evil? On my soul, to me no joy was ever equal to his fierce embrace, when with reluctant struggles I increased his love; but thou, rude slave, forbear, nor with unhallowed touch de-

file that form which ere has served to bless thy royal master's heart!"

"Just, righteous God!" said Sadak, falling back, "what are these sounds that rack my jealous ears? Have I then lived to hear Kalafrade prize a tyrant, and despise her lord?—No, it cannot be. I see wild passion rolls her eye, and madness has possessed her brain; borne down by former evils, and depressed by anxious cares, the unexpected change seized too quickly on her soul, and the transported fair one ran to meet me, ere that her mind was calmed by reason or religion. In such a state thou camest, sweet Kalafrade, to thy Sadak's arms; and when thy fluttering heart with hasty pulse demanded comfort, I gave thee base suspicion, and with rude hand repelled thy tender love; as not contented with thy sufferings past, in my first royal act I played the tyrant on my wife, and cursed thee more than Amurath had done.—But, righteous prophet, thou hast well repaid my base ingratitude! Blind as the dark mole, I dared accuse thy wonderous sight, and in the puny balance which my ignorant will held out, presumptuous weighed the mercies of my God!"

The pious words of Sadak were attended with unusual omens; from the left the vivid lightning flashed, the palace shook, and a thick cloud filled the apartment where Sadak stood, out of the midst of which came forward the stately Adiram, and thus addressed the consort of Kalafrade—

"Noble Sadak, the trials of your fortitude are now finished, and Adiram is the joyous

messenger of your future peace. The beautiful female who stands before you is not the real Kalafrade, as you will perceive when she shall restore to Doubor the enchanted ring.

"After your departure from the seraglio, in search of the waters of oblivion, I perceived that the obligations of an oath could not bind the man that was influenced by revenge, and unmoved by the tender calls of humanity: I therefore sent by my little winged messenger an enchanted ring to Doubor, declaring its virtues, and bid him use it when Kalafrade's distress should most require its assistance. The friendly Doubor had in vain employed both artifice and persuasion to prevent his master from yielding to his passions; every contrivance proved abortive, and Amurath was determined to force Kalafrade to his will.

"In this distress I sent the enchanted ring to Doubor, commanding him to put it on the finger of one of the ladies of the seraglio, who should thereby be enabled to personate Kalafrade, and deceive the sultan. Doubor, overjoyed, carried it to the fair and haughty Zurac, who had long pined unnoticed in the walls of the seraglio. Zurac tenderly loved Amurath, but her lord had never returned her affections.

"Zurac," said Doubor to the fair princess, "you are well acquainted with Amurath's passion; every beauty of the seraglio is neglected, and Kalafrade alone possesses the heart of Amurath.

"Say, then, fair one, should Doubor give to Zurac the powers of pleasing the mighty Amu-

Amurath, if Doubor should make him neglect Kalafrade, and seek only thee, what reward should the chief of the eunuchs meet at thy hands?"

"He should be," answered Zurac, "as the clear fountain to the desert, or as a pardon to the wretch condemned."

"Take, therefore," answered Doubor, "this ring; and while you wear it your speech and person shall be as the speech and the person of the favourite Kalafrade; but beware, lest your tongue betray the deception; and be cautious, and seemingly reluctant, that the change of behaviour awaken not in Amurath any suspicions concerning you."

"Zurac readily yielded to the proposals of Doubor, and the eunuch secretly removed Kalafrade from these apartments, and brought Zurac in her stead; but the monarch, fearful that Doubor would seek to prevent his desires, sent the faithful eunuch to Iznimid, and the next day commanded the false Kalafrade to yield to his desires.

"Zurac, happy that Amurath should so soon seek after her, made a faint resistance, and the passionate monarch took possession of her charms the day before you arrived from the fountains of oblivion.

"Though born to indulge his passions without controul from any human power, yet was Amurath shocked at the wild effects of his lust, and he repented of his folly when you

arrived; but the submissive resignation of Sadak, and his superior virtue, stung the soul of the faithless monarch; and, yielding to revenge, he poured his malice on your heart, for which the vengeance of Alla was levelled at his head, and he was suffered to drink down the deadly potions of oblivion.

“As soon as Amurath was dead, I appeared to Doubor, who was travelling towards Constantinople, and I commanded him not to take the ring from Zurac, or to reveal the secret to any one till he should see me again.

“And now, Doubor,” continued the Genii, “be you the messenger of these happy tidings to Kalasrade, and prepare her heart to receive her lord; and acquaint her also with the safety of her children, whom Amurath commanded thee to destroy, but whom thou secretly hast preserved, having stained thy innocent hands with the blood of a kid. And that no consideration may damp your joys, know that Ahud is living, whose failure on the burning island was the consequence of his filial piety. Having passed the whirlpool, and ascended the rocks, he came to the fruitful plain, and overjoyed at the sight of the fruits that grew thereon, the duteous youth plucked several, and folding them in his garments, he descended down the rocks, resolving not to taste them till he had carried them to Sadak his father; but as through his haste to relieve the fainting Sadak, he neglected to thank Alla for the gift, the evil Genii claimed a power over him, and the cause was debated between our race and the
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impious Genii, before the footstool of Mahomet. Long were the contests of each, and every argument was used, which either mercy or malice could suggest; till at length Mahomet determined, that the youth should neither succeed, nor be condemned, but that he should be conveyed to the ship of Gehari, which was sailing towards the Othman empire. He therefore shall, if Alla permit, return within the space of a year to his parent's arms; and in compassion to the race of the faithful, he shall not ascend to the enjoyment of his brother Codan, till, after thy death, he hath swayed with fame and glory the Othman scepter."

Thus spake the Genius Adiram, and retiring into the dark cloud, she left the brave Sadak in the royal seraglio; who, after he had assured the fair Zurac that she should enjoy the honours of Amurath's sultana, hastened to meet his beloved.

Doubor, who, in obedience to Adiram, had imparted the glad message to Kalafrade, was presenting her five children to the happy fair one, when Sadak entered the apartment. The sight of his long-lost children filled the happy father with the liveliest transports, and the honour of his Kalafrade so happily restored to him, gave new graces to his beauteous consort. They met with tears of joy, running like fountains from their pious eyes; and while in silent rapture they hung entwined in each other's arms, their beauteous children kneeled around, and bathed their robes with streams of tears.

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Conscious that passion had formerly transported them beyond the bounds of reason, they both in secret prayed for Alla's grace to moderate their joy; and having borne the trials of adversity, they now strove to obey the sober dictates of calmness and humility.

And first, kneeling in the midst of their dutious family, with hearts and eyes uplifted to the throne of Heaven, they poured forth their pious praises for their Maker's mercies; then in modest tenderness, indulged in mutual converse, by turns embracing all their children, and blessing their long-lost offspring; and with their tears of joy, fell some few piteous drops for righteous Codan's loss, and dutious Ahud's absence.

These happy duties finished, the royal Sadak arose, and went toward Doubor, the faithful eunuch.

"Friend of my bosom, and great instrument of all my joy," said Sadak, embracing him, "not all the monarch of the Othman throne can do for thee, can ere repay thy generous services: happy am I, to think that Alla will reward thee with the heart-felt pleasures of an approving conscience; that, Doubor, shall be thy chief reward; for worldly pleasures, command thy Sadak's fortune; the wealth of all my empire is at thy disposal."

The beauteous Kalafrade and her children followed the example of Sadak, and all with joy acknowledged Doubor's generous kindness.

The good old man, overcome by the affecting scene, in silence lifted up his watery eyes to Heaven, then fell at Sadak's feet, and would

would have kissed his sandals; but the grateful Sadak raised him up, and seated him beside his amiable Kalafrade.

Serenity and mildness succeeded in the affectionate interview, where all were happy in each other, and where all acknowledged the source of their happiness in the bounties of Alla.

The Genius Adiram thus finished her tale, and Iracagem and the surrounding Genii bowed from their thrones; the children of earth were filled with firm resolutions of fortitude, and the noble image of Sadak fired their youthful imaginations.

“While the sons of the faithful,” said Iracagem, “have received the impressions of fortitude from the lips of our sister Adiram, the daughters of our prophet have been well instructed in constancy and truth, by the glorious example of the firm Kalafrade; and doubt not, ye beauteous offspring, but virtue and fidelity shall be as greatly distinguished, as fully rewarded in the female sex, as ye see it honoured and approved amongst the sons of men. Born for each other, and alike endued with an ever-living soul, the great Alla impartially regards the sufferings and the virtues of all his children; and where weakness most prevails, there most his gracious strength supports and comforts in the unequal conflict.

“Nor weakly think, ye daughters of affliction, your sex is loaded with superior ills; though

though man in strength surpass you, yet seldom, against the virtuous and self-resolved breast, prevails his brutal force: guardians of your sex, our watchful race attendant view your toils, and turn, unseen, the base designs of man back on himself; or make your sufferings, when sustained with truth, appear far brighter ornaments than the gem which vainly strives to cast a lustre on your charms.

“Fair daughters, persevere, and let no foul intruder sully the beauteous image of a female soul: from your approving smiles, the sons of Adam take their first impressions; and were every woman virtuous, man soon would blush at vice, and copy you.”

Thus said the smiling Genius to his tender charge, nor added more: then turning to the illustrious Nadan—

“Nadan,” said the sage Iracagem, “we next expect to hear the mild doctrines of thy persuasive tongue.”

“Chief of our immortal race,” answered the venerable Nadan, “I obey.”

TALE X.

Mirglif, the Persian; or, Fincal, the Dervise of the Groves.

IN the first ages of the Mahomedan faith, the kingdom of Persia was governed by Adhim, the magnificent, who removed the royal palace from Isfahan to Raglai, and enlarged the glories

glories of his habitation beyond the example of all his predecessors.

The palace itself was built on the mountain Orez, standing on an extensive plain, which was surrounded by four walls, two hundred feet in height, and covered with a platform of marble, whereon nine chariots might drive abreast. The northern wall, which looked toward the Caspian sea, was three leagues in length, and supported by six and thirty towers, whose turrets reached one hundred and eighty-two feet above the platform of the wall.

The wall to the south, which looked toward Ormus, the great city, was also three leagues in length, and was supported by six and thirty towers of equal height with the former.

The western wall looked towards Assyria, and its towers were in number thirty and six, and its length, from the first tower southward, to that which looked toward the north, was three leagues.

The eastern wall, which completed the fortification, looked toward the kingdoms of India, and its towers and platform, and its extent, were equal to the rest of the walls, which Adhim had caused to be built around the plain of Orez, the place of his habitation.

Within these walls, Adhim caused the plain to be divided into gardens; and because there was no river near, he employed three hundred thousand men to bring the great river Abutour from beyond Casemabat to the eastern side of the plain, where it entered through the wall under an arch, whose center reached even to the platform, which Adhim had caused to be laid

laid on the surface of the wall which he had built.

In these gardens Adhim built a thousand palaces for his nobles and warriors; and in the midst, on a rocky mountain, whose summit was eight hundred feet from the river Abutour, which was made to run round the mountain, stood the palace of the king.

And because the soil of the plain Orez was rocky and barren, Adhim employed fifteen thousand carriages to bring the fat soil of the vallies within the walls of his habitation; and he removed the forest of cedars, which grew on the mountains of Esdral, and planted them in the plain of Orez, which he had fortified with walls, and with an hundred and forty turrets.

And now Adhim looked from his palace on the mountain Orez, and his heart leaped within him to behold the works which he had made; and he said to his counsellors, "Who is equal to Adhim, whose buildings are as wide extended as the Caspian Sea, and whose works no man can count because of their number?"

And his counsellors answered Adhim, and said, "None is equal to Adhim, the viceroy of Alla."

And Lemack, his vizir, replied, "None is equal to Adhim, our lord, whose buildings are like the cities of the eastern princes, and whose palace is as a desirable kingdom."

Adhim, pleased with the flattery of the princes, retired to rest, and the next morning summoned them again, to behold the glories of his reign.

The

The courtiers seemed to admire the magnificence of Adhim; and they said, "None is equal to Adhim, the viceroy of Alla."

And Lemack, his vizir, replied, "None is equal to Adhim, our lord, whose buildings are like the cities of the eastern princes, and whose palace is as a desirable kingdom."

The enraged Adhim, disgusted by a repetition of the same flattery, which had pleased him so much the day before, commanded his courtiers and his vizir to retire, and he went up alone to the highest battlements of the palace, to survey at once the mighty works which he had lived to complete.

For a few minutes the extended idea filled his soul: he endeavoured to reckon the flocks and the herds, which had been driven into the pastures bordering on the river Abutour, but they might not be told for number; and he was pleased to find, that it was in vain to attempt to count the inhabitants of the palaces on the plain of Orez.

"But what," said the discontented monarch, "shall these glories avail me, if the minds of my courtiers are not dilated with their master's magnificence? Here are objects sufficient to diversify the ideas of my vizirs for a thousand years, and yet the words which they uttered yesterday, are to-day in the mouths of my flattering court."

Displeased at viewing unnoticed the glories of his palace, Adhim descended toward the women's apartment, and conducted several of his sultanas to the terrace which overlooked the buildings he had erected.

“Yasdi,” said the sultan to the female who stood at his right-hand, “observe the glories which surround Adhim thy lord: canst thou reckon, O Yasdi, the glittering palaces which have built? or canst thou number the multitudes whom thy sultan hath blessed?”

“Glory of the earth,” answered Yasdi, “great are the perfections of Adhim, my lord: but, oh! if Yasdi, thy slave, might speak; if she might answer her lord, who is but as the handmaid of his pleasures, Yasdi would kneel before thee in behalf of her relations, and thou shouldest give to the children of my father an habitation in thy palace of the plain.”

“Yasdi,” answered Adhim, “thy request shall be granted. But what saith Tema to the palaces which I have built?”

“O,” said Tema, “let not my lord be displeased, and I will speak. Tema, whose soul is love, and whose spirit is fondness for thee, my lord, wishes to enjoy the smiles of Adhim in the grove, and to see none other than the face of her beloved.”

“Gentle Tema,” replied the sultan, sighing, “I thank thy love; but I perceive the cottager has charms sufficient to provoke the affections of Tema.”

“And what thinks Ahiaza?” said the fond Adhim, smiling on his favourite sultana.

“O, my lord,” answered Ahiaza, “you have brought me to an hideous height, and my head swims, and my fancy totters at the dismal prospect.”

Adhim could no longer conceal his resentment: he turned hastily from the princesses, and

and descended from the terrace into the apartments of his palace.

"Let Lemack, my vizir," said the monarch, "be brought before me."

Lemack hurried into the presence of Adhim, and fell at the feet of his sultan.

"Since those who have chiefly experienced the bounties of their lord," said Adhim, "are most ignorant of his glories, I mean, Lemack, to go disguised, and hear my praises among my less favoured subjects; wherefore, prepare the mean clothing of two artisans, and we will together issue forth out of the palace, and join the conversation of my subjects, whose buildings are without the walls which surround the plain of Orez."

The vizir Lemack endeavoured to soothe the pride of his prince with a profusion of compliments; but Adhim stopped his career with a frown, and bid him not, by a stale artifice, increase the guilt of his former indifference.

Lemack obeyed, and ere the bat had spread its leathern wing amidst the sable clouds of night, the sultan and his vizir issued forth in disguise into the suburbs which surrounded the palace of Orez.

After wandering some time through the streets, they were met by two merchants, who had just been paying the sultan's tax at the receipt of custom.

"Ah," said the first merchant, "these are the cursed artisans, who are employed by the sultan, to work up that wealth which is squeezed out of our honest employment."

"True," replied the second merchant; "but would Adhim be as easily satisfied, as one we are well acquainted with, how happy should the merchants of Raglai live!"

"My lord," said Lemack to Adhim, "let us return; your subjects, I fear, are but little disposed to commend the glories of your palace."

"Nevertheless," answered Adhim, "we will proceed. A prince should be able to hear with indifference both the good and the bad; all my subjects, Lemack, are not merchants."

As they walked onward, they met several young Persians, intoxicated with the forbidden juice of the vines of Deran.

"These," said Adhim, "though rebels to government, will yet speak as they think; neither prejudice nor private interest hangs on the tongue of him who is drunken with wine."

"Tell me not," said the first, "of the river Abutour; was I sultan of Persia, it should run wine, and the walls of my vineyard should surround a province."

"It is, indeed, a pretty place," answered the second: "I believe there are better wines drank without the wall, than within it."

"It is only fit," said the third, "for the habitation of our sober friend the water-drinker."

"Peace," replied the fourth, "his fame can never be blown upon by the breath of drunkenness; and, with my gaiety, I had rather be that sober water-drinker, than the brick-maker Adhim."

The

The sultan hardly could conceal his rage at the opprobrious epithet which the last young man had bestowed upon him; but being determined to prosecute his search, he left the riotous young men, without endeavouring to confute them.

Lemack, the vizir, again attempted to divert the intentions of his sultan; but in the midst of his intreaties, they were overtaken by an old man and his son.

"Gentlemen," said the old man, "be judges between me and my son: the young rogue broke loose from me this morning, and to-night he is returned, hungry and cold; and though I set before him such food as his mother and myself have used from our infancy, yet he talks of nothing but the delicacies of those who eat in the palaces of the plains of Orez."

"And my father," answered the son pertly, "would persuade me, that our neighbour lives better than Adhim the magnificent, and he who eats little, is happier than the prince of his people."

"Lemack," said Adhim "let these, and the young men, and the merchants, be brought before me to morrow, that we may know what they mean, by preferring their neighbour to their prince."

Lemack promised to obey, and Adhim still pursued his walk.

And now they met a little family, following the heels of a man and a woman in mean attire, who filled the streets with their piteous lamentations.

"Pity, good Musselmen," said the man, "have pity on a poor family, who are oppressed by the hand of power, and who are ruined, that their ruin may add a needless splendour to those who are capable of sporting with the miseries of mankind!"

"Of whom do you complain?" said Adhim, kindly walking up to them.

"Alas," answered the man, "so wretched are we, that we dare not mention the name of our oppressor; and but for the bounty of one, who this day relieved us, we had perished in the street."

"Lemack," said Adhim, "whispering his vizir, "relieve them to-night, and to-morrow let them be brought, with the merchants, and those we have already met."

"Commander of the faithful," replied Lemack, "thy slave will obey the voice of his lord: but the unwholesome dew falleth from the heavens, and my lord will be wet by the sickly steam."

"Lemack," said Adhim, "we will inquire what means that crowd before us, and then return to the royal palace."

"Alas! alas!" cried a frantic female, who preceded the crowd, "Queshad, the faithful Queshad, who supported my tender infants with the sweat of his brow, is now no more! Thy limbs, O Queshad, are broken, yet not by toil! Thy life is wasted, while as yet thou hast strength to go forth to the labours of the day!"

"Unfortunate wife of Queshad," said one, who endeavoured to alleviate her afflictions,

"miti-

"mitigate thy grief; and know that Alla hath, for wise purposes, made this trial of thy faith. Queshad, O mourner, was indeed a tender husband to thee; but Queshad was not thy God. There are yet left those who can pity thy misfortunes, and relieve thy distresses; and doubtless the righteous Adhim, when he hears thy husband lost his life in finishing the mighty buildings he hath erected, will pour the bounties of a monarch into thy widowed arms."

"O mighty Alla," said Adhim, sighing in secret to his vizir, "are these the glories I proposed, when I employed all my subjects in such works of magnificence! O Lemack, Lemack! I fear I am wrong! However, bring this widow, and her friend who has so justly answered for his sultan, before me to-morrow."

Lemack employed the greatest part of the night in finding out those who were next morning to appear before his prince, while Adhim lay extended and restless on the downy sofa.

In the morning the divan was crowded, and the people were in tumult to know for what cause so many prisoners were brought before the throne of Adhim.

No sooner was the sultan seated, than Lemack presented the two merchants before him.

"Merchants," said Adhim, "what I heard not as a prince, I shall not punish as a prince; only be cautious for the future, not to load your governors with undeserved calumnies; and tell me truly, whom you dated with in the throne of Adhim your sultan?"

The

The merchants were confounded at the speech of Adhim; but perceiving he had overheard them the night before, they fell at his feet, and besought his pardon; and the second merchant said—

“Alla forbid thy slave should see any other than Adhim, my lord, on the throne of his forefathers: notwithstanding, I confess, I meant to praise the temperate virtues of Mirglip the Persian.”

“Lemack,” said Adhim, “bring forward the young men, who despised the law of Mahomet; and, vizir, remember, that when all these are dismissed, seek out this Mirglip, and bring him before me.”

The young men, ashamed of their debauch, fell with their faces before the throne; and Adhim, gently chiding them for their excess, inquired of them, who they meant to praise for his temperate behaviour?

The young men returned thanks to the sultan for his clemency; and the third said—

“Next to our sultan, Mirglip the Persian is beloved in the streets of Raglai.”

Lemack frowned at these words, and cursed the speaker in his heart; but the vizir dissimulated his rancour, and brought the old man and his son before the throne of Adhim.

“From whence, O young man,” said the sultan, “hast thou learned to despise thy parents, and to disregard the authority of those who are set over thee?”

“Prince of thy people,” answered the young man, trembling, “forgive the follies of an inexperienced—

experienced youth; I will ever hereafter frame my conduct from the example of the temperate Mirglip."

"What," said the king, astonished, is Mirglip the neighbour of all my subjects?"

"He was indeed," answered the old father, "that bright pattern of temperance which I last night proposed as an example to my son."

The old man and his son retiring, Lemack, the vizir, brought the poor man and his family before the sultan.

"Of whom didst thou complain, last night?" said the sultan to him, "when thy dark words did seem to cast a shadow on thy prince!"

"Forgive me, glory of Persia," answered the poor man, "if an heart, overloaded with sorrows, poured forth part of its distress in the ears of its prince. Indeed, commander of the faithful, the miseries which my little ones have suffered, since my cottage in the valley was destroyed, to make room for the mighty engines which drew down thy cedars from the mountains, forced me to complain in the bitter anguish of my woes."

"Slave," answered the sultan, "thou mayest well ask forgiveness for thy presumption; but I have resolved not to punish; and even thy slander shall not make void the purpose of my heart: but who was this stranger that relieved thee, of whom thou speakest in such terms of praises?"

"Master of my life," answered the poor man, "to the good Mirglip do I own my children's existence."

"These

"These slaves," said Lemack, "are confederates in their tale; and some enemy of thy peace, O royal Adhim, means to set up this hypocrite above his lord."

"Thy surmise, O Lemack," said the sultan, "is just; but let us hear these last whom we met yesternight, ere we proceed to pass on this upstart Mirglip such judgement as his insolence deserves."

The poor man and his family being dismissed, he who had comforted the wife of Queshad came forward, with the sorrowful widow on his right hand, whose distresses he endeavoured to alleviate, by representing to her the amiable generosity of Adhim, before whom she was about to appear.

The disconsolate widow fell trembling at the feet of Adhim, and her words, which strove for utterance, were stopped by her heaving sighs, and an heart swelled with affliction.

The stranger, who attended the widow, viewed with compassionate eyes the sorrows of her soul, and, with silent respect, seemed to wait the commands of Adhim, to speak in her behalf.

"Stranger," said the sultan Adhim to him, "I applaud your compassion; as you have been the support, be also the voice of your female friend."

"Guardian of our faith," answered the stranger, "this widow is indeed my friend; for she is a Persian, and also a follower of our holy prophet; and although I never beheld her till yesterday, yet hath her necessities knit us together in the bond of friendship."

"Stranger,

"Stranger," said the sultan, smiling, "I understand you; you are charmed with the beauteous sorrows of this amiable widow, and you are ready to renew the vows which Queshad doth now remember no more."

"Prince of thy people," replied the stranger, "thy slave would never wish to countenance ingratitude to those whom we have lost.—Grief is the natural tribute of a fond heart, to the memory of the beloved. And though I have besought the widow of Queshad to moderate her affliction, yet should I grieve to see her change her pious tears for wanton dimples. No, prince, moved only by humanity, I met, and, as my poor endeavours could, I succoured the distressed; and now, by royal Adhim's kind permission, I kneel before my prince's throne, an humble suppliant for an helpless widow."

"Lemack," said the sultan, turning hastily toward his vizir "thinkest thou the new favourite Mirglip has half the virtues of this man before me? Hastle, vizir, and bring him here, and I will engage our stranger shall in every grace exceed this upstart Mirglip."

As the sultan Adhim spoke thus, the stranger fell with his face before the throne, and he said—

"If Mirglip hath offended his prince, let thy guards, "O sultan, here strike, and sacrifice him to thy just resentment."

"What," said Adhim, starting, "art thou, too, Mirglip? Officious slave! was it not sufficient to send this flattering crew before me, but

but must thou also act thy base hypocrisy in person here?"

"Merciful Adhim," said the vizir Lemack, "let this trusty scymitar lay bare the traitor's bosom, and relieve my prince from such daring rebellion."

"Hold, Lemack," said the sultan sternly, "and defile not my reign with so mean a sacrifice: no, let him live; and if indeed he be the man fame speaks him, he well were worthy of a monarch's favour."

The subjects of Adhim, hearing the noble sentence of their prince, made the vaulted divan echo with their praise, and every eye but Lemack's sparkled with a joyous tear.

However, the cautious vizir perceiving the purpose of his master Adhim, and the satisfaction of the populace, veiled his malice with a courtier's smile, and, descending from his seat, he gave his hand to Mirglip, and raised the prostrate Persian from the earth.

"O royal Adhim," said Mirglip, ere he rose, "if with a view to wordly honour only I had done my duty, or to court the soft air of gentle breathing flattery, then might my prince with indignation view the rebel Mirglip; but, surely, prince, to follow the holy precepts of our law, in honour of my prophet, is not a deed deserving royal Adhim's hatred!"

"Mirglip," said Adhim, "rise; thy prince applauds thy holy zeal, and thou shalt live within my spacious walls, that daily I may hear thy virtuous converse."

"Bountiful sultan," answered Mirglip, "in humble meanness bred a native of the forest,
the

honours of my lord would wear unhandsomely upon thy slave, and I should act the courtier with an awkward grace: rather, if it please my prince, let Mirglip still among the meanest wander, sufficiently rewarded for his labours, that Adhim once hath deigned to bless his life with an approving smile."

"What," said the sultan, astonished, "canst thou resist the offers of thy prince? Are not the tribes of Xemi the mightiest of my subjects? Are not the captains of the host of Feriz in the long toils of war renowned? Are not these all anxiously soliciting to be admitted into the palaces of the plain of Orez? and shall Mirglip, a base peasant, dare refuse the bounties of his lord? Yes, peasant as thou art, (continued the sultan) thy folly be thy punishment; go, live inglorious in the cottages of the forest, and every hour lament the lost affections of thy prince."

Thus said the sultan, nor suffered a reply, but hastily withdrew, with Lemack, from the divan; while the populace with tears departed, all wondering at the abstinence of their favourite Mirglip.

The pride of Adhim was severely rebuked by the indifference of Mirglip, and he looked on his palaces with contempt, since they were unable to raise his fame among his subjects, or to tempt the admiration of a rude peasant.

Lemack with pleasure saw the emotion of his master; the peace of Adhim was indifferent to the vizir, so long as no upstart favourite was likely to destroy his interest with his prince.

“The well-instructed and the ingenious mind alone,” said the vizir to Adhim, “can admire the extensive works of Adhim, my lord: to Mirglip, and his tribe of peasants, these beauteous piles look like the steep mountains, which the labouring hind toils over, without reflecting on its mighty founder: as the bird, with out-stretched wing, poised on the buoyant air, obliquely skims upon a palace or a cottage, and, in its native ignorance, knows not the sultan of Persia from the peasant of the mountain.”

“Thy words,” replied Adhim, “though meant to soothe my gloom, do truly add a poignant sting thereto. I have seen, O Lemack, the busy thrush with impotent anxiety framing its little nest, and I have smiled to view the insignificant beams of its dwelling-place: yet, Lemack, that thrush, perhaps, is now, regardless of my palaces, with a few airy circlets circumscribing thy Adhim’s magnificence, and, should I venture forth, might chirrup out a careless note above, and mate upon thy prince, whom all the armies of the Persian empire might vainly follow to revenge his pastime.”

“My prince,” answered Lemack, “is merry with his slave.”

“Thy prince,” answered Adhim, “is dissatisfied with his own magnificence, when he sees that a peasant may be more esteemed for his private virtues, than the sultan of Persia for his stately palaces: nay, Lemack, I myself esteem this Mirglip, and thou shalt haste, and pay

pay that widow, whom he so charitably supported, an hundred sequins."

"Alas, glory of the east," answered the vizir, "shall Adhim then, the sultan of Persia, stoop beneath a peasant? Shouldest thou heap half the wealth of thy kingdom on this woman, not thine, but Mirglip's, would be the praise, and the hypocritical peasant should seem to make thee but the treasurer of his coffers."

"Sooner let the widow waste like the live ember," said the sultan, "than such reflections glance on Adhim."

"But why," O prince," said Lemack, "should a peasant's follies haunt thy fancy? Hath not my lord ten thousand slaves that wait upon his pleasure? For thee the undaunted huntsman rouzes with his well-poised spear the tawny monarch of the forest, or with dexterous eye marks where the panther hides his callous offspring; or drawing with keen aim the feathered arrow, buries its bearded point within the spotted tyger's back: for thee the clarion sounds, and the brisk trumpet blows its lively note, to mark thy footsteps: for thee, returning from his watery bed, the sun lights up the grey morn, and kindles for thy pleasure the genial face of day: for thee the blooming virgins of the east dissolve in amorous sighs; while every eye, attendant on thy will, beams not, unless thy favour light it up, and give it life."

"And where is the joy," said Adhim, "that, tyrant of the wood, I spread destruction! that, cursed by me, the lordly lion dies; or that the

tender progeny, which Heaven gives the panther, I destroy? What praise shall Adhim challenge, Lemack, that the tyger writhes his bloody back, and groans out beastly sighs to give me pleasure? That my fame hangs upon the filthy blast of some sworn trumpeter? Or shall I think the sun awaits my call, who, long before my realms receive a distant ray, is listening to the whistle of some eastern husbandman? Yet, worse than all these, thou settest my honour on a woman's smile; and wouldest persuade thy Adhim, that greedy eye glistens at me, which glistens at my gold. No, Lemack, without a self-approving conscience and a virtuous mind, base are the pleasures of an human soul; and Mirglip, by one righteous deed, shall gain more solid comfort than royal Adhim on the Persian throne.

"Lemack," continued the sultan, "this Mirglip shall be our friend; and thou, ere morning dawns, shalt court him to thy prince."

"The will of Adhim," replied Lemack, "be his vizir's law."

Thus said the jealous vizir, and retired from the palace of Adhim, unwilling to execute the commands of his master, and yet fearful of disobeying his orders.

"This villanous slave," said Lemack, as he went from the presence of Adhim, "has, by his false virtues, corrupted the magnificent heart of Adhim, my lord. While Adhim led his rivers through the rocks, I led Adhim through the blind vallies of deceit; and when ambition stirred, I set my royal builder to rise from stone to stone, and scale the clouds: long with

with such fruitless toil he pleased his infant mind, and big with mighty plans of moving barren mountains, he left the lower offices of government to me: then luxurious plunder filled my chests; and as I passed, the children cried, the widows shrieked, and the astonished populace hid their heads, and cried, "Hush! prostrate fall; the vizir Lemack comes!" Then every step I took, great Lemack trod upon some abject neck, and the deluded Persian thought death by my hand was a safe passport into Paradise: if with hot eye I caught a female glance, the husband trembling came, and offered me his wife, proud that from Lemack's loins should rise his future progeny; or if the cold senseless matron sighed out a denial, her house erased, her children slaughtered, and her husband pierced with the bloody stake, were the first tokens of my least displeasure.

"Such Lemack was, while Adhim was a builder; but now his plan complete, his tower erected, and his plain inclosed, his busy mind, unsatisfied, seeks new diversion, and for want of vice, virtue has made a faint attempt upon his heart. But I will stir the infernal race, and raise phantoms to elude his search; and chiefly, that no starch example lead him forward, this Mirglip shall find a ready way to that heaven which he longs for; that every pious fool may know how dangerous it is to ape a saint, where Lemack reigns."

Such were the thoughts of Lemack, the vizir of Adhim, as he passed from the presence of his sultan, to his own palace on the plains of Orez; and in the rancorous malice of his heart,

heart, he resolved to send forth a midnight executioner to destroy the virtuous peasant Mirglip, whose actions had made such an impression on the mind of Adhim.

But the crafty vizir soon considered, that the blast of opposition would increase the reviving flame of Adhim's virtue, and that to destroy one vigorous plant, would be to raise a thousand shoots around the expiring stock; he therefore resolved to work in secret craftiness, and that very night to go, in search of the forcerer Falri, under whose tuition he had been bred in the dark caves of Goruou.

For this purpose, the vizir Lemack exchanged his gorgeous robes of state, for the religious weeds of a poor devotee; but that his sanctified appearance might not have too much of the reality of religion, he hid under his outward rags a meal of royal delicacies, and a flaggon of the delicious produce of the vintage of Tihi.

Thus equipped, he walked forth toward the caves of Goruou, which were in a secret part of the forest, about three leagues from the royal buildings; and, fearful of a discovery, he avoided every Persian in his walk, lest they should know the disguised vizir, and revenge themselves on the public author of all their wrongs.

The cave of Falri was surrounded with unhallowed swine, who grunted on the dark and filthy leaves of corn, which the forcerer had prepared for their sustenance and their bed; an ill-favoured steam arose from their hides,

and

and the neighbouring woods were filled with the loud snarling of the guards of Falri.

As Lemack, pressing the beastly muck with his wet sandals, passed the hot-smelling wine, they all, with erected bristles, endeavoured to oppose his passage, till scenting the delicacies which were hidden beneath his rags, they ran upon him, and unless he had suddenly entered into the presence of Falri, they had destroyed the vizir.

The cave of Falri smelt not more delicately than the swine before it; on every side appeared the disgorged marks of drunkenness and gluttony, and the four stream, which issued from the covered pavement, assured Lemack, that he came too late to partake of the debauch of Falri.

At the upper end of the cave, the sorcerer lay extended, pressing his aching forehead with an hand besmeared with grease, and with the lees of wine; his little red ferret eyes were half squeezed by anguish from their bleared sockets, and his cheeks scalded with the fiery rheum, and bloated by excess, shone discoloured with a thousand hues. Blotches, carbuncles, and warts, adorned his glowing nose, and in his filthy beard the different sauces of a week's extravagance were closely matted; his lips, chapped and divided by the burning steam of his over-loaded stomach, discovered his foul teeth, clogged by corrupted food, and black with rottenness; and on his furred and fever-parched tongue hung not a drop of moisture. Over his unwieldy paunch, and lifeless limbs, were thrown a few disordered garments, but
in

in contrary fashion to their real use ; the turban, unfolded, covered his feet, and the vest was wrapped round his head, while his unseemly parts were left exposed, as emblems of his beastlihood. Beside him stood his tube, burning with the foetid herb tobacco, filling the cave with its poisonous odour, and on his right hand was placed a calabash of the spirituous juice of rice.

As the vizir Lemack entered, the forcerer Falri filled the cave with curses and execrations : but when he perceived it was his pupil in disguise, the wretch arose with many a stagger on his tottering legs, and ran with outstretched arms to hold him in his nauseous gripe.

“ What bringeth Lemack,” said the ferret-eyed forcerer, “ from the feasts of Raglai to the caves of Falri ? Are all the oxen of the plains of Orez devoured ? or are the royal flaggons of Adhim exhausted ? ”

“ Thy son,” answered Lemack, sighing, “ was once the pride of Orez, and the voice of his mouth was a law in Persia ; Adhim was magnificent, and Lemack was absolute ; my days were crowned with festivals, and my nights with debauch ; but soon these joyous carousals shall be no more ; Adhim awakes to virtue, and an abstemious peasant will shortly be his guide, unless the power of Falri shake from his security the abstemious Mirglip.”

“ What, Lemack,” answered Falri, “ art thou a vizir in Persia, and comest thou to me to destroy a peasant for thee ? Let thy guards this night dismember the abstemious Mirglip,
and

and to-morrow rise, and fear not to meet thine enemy in thy paths."

"The nature of Adhim, my sultan," replied Lemack, "will not be deceived; when Mirglip shall be missing, his whole pursuit shall be after the murderer, and Lemack at length be sacrificed."

"Then," answered Falri, "leave him to thy friend; return in peace to thy palace, and to-morrow, when thou goest into the presence of thy prince, boldly declare that Mirglip could not appear before him, because he was drunken with wine."

"Alas!" replied Lemack, "the sultan, jealous of my tale, will haste to summon Mirglip before him; and I, detected in my falsehood, shall fall for ever from before my prince."

"If such suspicions," answered Falri, "rise, do you engage, by the succeeding night, to shew your sultan, Mirglip drinks the forbidden wine, and leave the rest to me."

"To Falri's artifice," replied the vizir, "I will leave it all; and haste again to Raglai, and the plains of Orez."

Thus said Lemack, and departed, not forgetful of the viands which he kept concealed in his garments; but willing to feast alone in the wood, after he had left the forcerer: for his purpose gained, the vizir, who was exhausted by his journey, wished for no partaker in his gluttony.

In the morning, when Lemack appeared before Adhim, the sultan inquired after Mirglip the Persian.

"Glory

"Glory of the earth," said the vizir, bowing, "who is he that is like Adhim, in the greatness of his mind! over whom custom hath no chain, and who knows not the sceptered power of appetite and passion! Mirglip, O sultan, hath won the hearts of all the people; he riseth and scattereth abroad the gifts of benevolence; he healeth the breaches of neighbours; he comforteth the afflicted: but, fatigued with the severe duties of the day, his wasted strength requireth recruit; and at night, after all his toils, he is renewed with the precious tears which fall from the luscious grape."

"Ah, Lemack!" said Adhim, starting, "is Mirglip, the wise, the temperate Mirglip, the slave of wine? No, Lemack, it cannot be."

"O thou," answered the vizir, "before whom hypocrisy flieth dismayed, and in whose presence falsehood dare not stand, forgive the tongue of thy slave, which wisheth not to utter the failings of its brother! To me, O Adhim, Mirglip is allied by the ties of virtue and religion; and not without my own distress, do I discover the little spot which sullies the glory of Persia: but my prince requireth truth from his slave. Know then, O sultan, that in obedience to thy command, I entered this morning the cottage of Mirglip; where I saw, O piteous sight! his out-stretched corse unwashed on the ground, and the empty flaggon which stood beside him. Struck dumb with the sight, I hastened away before Mirglip awoke, to relate to my prince the disagreeable tale; and having heard from his neighbour, that this is the only failing of Mirglip, which he repeats every night,

night, my prince may himself to-night discover the truth of my assertion."

"That," answered Adhim, "I mean to do, in the same disguise which we lately assumed. Wherefore, Lemack, leave me now, and prepare to convince me this night of what you have said."

Lemack obeyed; and night being come, Adhim and his vizir departed silently from Orez, to the cottage of Mirglip.

In the mean time, Falri, disguised in the habit of a merchant, entered the city of Raglai, and knocked, in the dusk of the evening, at the cottage of Mirglip; who invited him into his house, and understanding he came from a far country, set before him such plain provisions as he used himself.

The pretended merchant, having eaten his fill, sighed; and telling Mirglip that he was greatly fatigued with his journey, he desired him to bestow one cup of wine upon him.

Mirglip started at the request of the merchant. "What!" said he, "have I received under my roof one who despiseth the precepts of Mahomet, and the command of Alla?"

"Alas," answered the pretended merchant, "Mahomet knows what a force I put upon my conscience, when I besought thee to favour me with the cordial of the vintage; but surely, when my nerves quiver, and my strength fails, Mahomet will approve of your righteous deed."

As the false forcerer spake thus, he tumbled from the sofa whereon he was placed, and he
sighed

sighed aloud, "O prophet! save my exhausted frame."

Mirglip perceiving the distress of the sham merchant, and supposing it real, ran to those who dealt in sherbet, and bought a pitcher of wine, which he carried home and set on the ground before the forcerer.

It happened, that as Mirglip was entering his cottage, Adhim and Lemack passed him in disguise; and the sultan saw plainly, that Mirglip was carrying into his cottage a pitcher of wine.

The enraged sultan at first resolved to sacrifice the hypocrite, as he supposed, to his just resentment, which Lemack the vizir advised. But a few moments reflection made the sultan rather chuse to condemn him publicly, than to gain the hatred of his people by a precipitate execution.

Adhim, disgusted, returned to his palace, ordering Mirglip to be brought before him in the morning; and Lemack retired to a joyous banquet, of which he partook with a new relish, as he doubted not but the fate of Mirglip was determined.

Early in the morning, the guards of the sultan surrounded the cottage of Mirglip; and the vizir Lemack commanded a few chosen guards to enter, and seize on the hypocritical peasant.

Mirglip, though surprized at the tumult, yet shewed no marks of fear; conscience spread no alarm within, and he was satisfied that the sword, which might deprive him of his existence,

istence, could not destroy the inward peace of his soul.

The guards, who were accustomed to strike terror into their captives, supposed they had been mistaken; and that the man who kneeled not for mercy, nor trembled through fear, could not be Mirglip, whom they were commanded to seize.

Being assured from his own lips, that he was Mirglip the Persian, they brought him before Lemack, whose eyes were swollen with intemperance, and whose brow was laden with malice.

"What calm hypocrite," said Lemack roughly, "have we here? who has so soon forgot the revels of the night, and the fumes of wine? But Adhim, the royal Adhim, shall judge thee, thou vile sycophant!—Guards," continued the vizir, "were there no partakers with this Mirglip? Was no one with him in the cottage, where ye found him extended on the floor with drunkenness?"

"Just judge of Persia," answered the false forcerer, who then came forward, "let my pardon be sealed by the lips of the righteous Lemack, and I will speak."

"If thou declarest truly before our sultan what passed between thee and Mirglip last night," answered Lemack, "thou shalt be forgiven; but till then, guards, seize on him, and let us bring them both before our sultan."

The crowd gathered, as Mirglip and the vizir passed; and when they entered before Adhim, the divan was crowded with anxious spectators.

The sultan sat on his throne, when Lemack brought Mirglip in fetters before him.

"This, O royal Adhim," said Lemack, bowing, "is the man whom Persia loveth more than her prince, who in his midnight haunts pours out the spacious goblet, who cheats the deluded populace by sanctified expressions in the day, and at the decline of the sun curseth Alla and his prophet, in the cups of his drunkenness."

The populace shuddered at the malicious expressions of Lemack; and they doubted not but the vizir would prevail, and destroy their favourite.

"Vizir," replied the sultan, "we sit here to judge from real facts, and not from the warm expressions of zeal. Who is it that accuseth Mirglip?"

"This merchant," answered Lemack, "whom he entertained last night; shocked at Mirglip's hypocrisy, and penitent for his own accidental share in it, he, without compulsion, offered to disclose the truth, if Adhim would forgive the partakers in the crimes of Mirglip."

The vizir then brought the sham-merchant forward before the throne.

"Son of Persia, and guide of the faithful," said the forcerer, prostrate before Adhim, "let my lord forgive, and I will speak."

"Speak, then," answered Adhim, "the truth, and justice shall for this offence forget to strike."

"As I entered this city last night," said the sham merchant, "yon Persian accosted me, and

and willed me to partake with him of the plain food of his cottage: thankful for his offer I followed him, and he set before me some roots and some boiled rice. After which, 'Merchant,' said he, 'can you be secret? You are fatigued with your journey, and a cup of wine will enliven you.' It was in vain that, in answer, I urged the commandment of our prophet, and the law of Adhim; Mirglip would be obeyed, and he gave me a small cup, but in his own hands he held one large enough to contain a measure of rice. By frequent pledges we soon emptied our first pitcher of wine; and Mirglip, not content, went forth to those who sell sherbet, and purchased a second.

"The more we drank, the more lively we grew, and Mirglip waxed communicative; 'Merchant,' said he, 'I invite only strangers, and after the first night I see them no more: you will, perhaps, be surprised to think that I, but a mean cottager, can every night support such an expence; but your wonder will cease, when you shall hear that I am bountifully supplied by the rich merchants and widows of Raglai with money to distribute among the poor; half of their supplies I regularly distribute every day; and the populace have made a saint of me for my labour; the other half exactly supplies me with an entertainment and wine each night for myself and a stranger.'

'And how cometh it to pass,' answered I, 'that none of these strangers discover you?'

'That,' answered Mirglip, 'is a secret which you never must know.'

“ This, O sultan, made me suspect that Mirglip at last gave some potion to his guests, to take from them all memory of his feast, and therefore I resolved to taste nothing more in his house.

“ What I suspected was true ; when I was about to depart, he brought out a small stone bottle : ‘ This,’ said he, ‘ O stranger, is a wine of the most exquisite flavour ; I can afford you but little of it ; to every guest I give a cup, and no more.’

“ Mirglip then poured forth a cupfull, and I pretended to drink thereof, but in truth I turned aside, and poured it secretly into my bosom, by which means I preserved my memory, and have been enabled to detect the hypocrisies of Mirglip.”

As the sham merchant uttered these words, a deep groan was heard through every part of the divan, and the populace, incensed, cried out that Mirglip, the deceitful Mirglip, might be delivered to their fury.

“ The words of the merchant,” said the sultan, “ are too true ; a part of his tale I myself did witness, when going through the city in disguise, I met this Mirglip with a pitcher of wine in his hand.”

No more proof seemed wanting, nor would the sultan suffer Mirglip to answer for himself.

“ Thy tongue,” said he, “ is used to deceit, and I will not hear the hypocrisies thou art prepared to utter.”

Lemack, rejoicing, seized instantly on Mirglip, and commanded the guards to gag him, that

that he might not, in the malice of his heart, utter any blasphemy against Alla, or rebellion against his prince.

The unfortunate Mirglip, overpowered by force and tumult, was led away, Lemack hoped, to instant execution; but the sultan, in the midst of his anger, felt his heart yearn towards him, and he commanded, that, till his sentence was pronounced, he should be cast into a deep dungeon, at the foot of the rock on which stood the palace of the king.

Mirglip peaceably submitted to his fate; and, seeing no present hope of answering for himself, meekly followed the guards of Adhim to the dungeons of the mountain.

The vizir Lemack, having thus blasted the reputation of Mirglip, resolved to divert the thoughts of Adhim by some sudden scheme, that he might the easier destroy the unhappy peasant in secret.

For this purpose he commanded his emissaries to procure some of the most beauteous slaves, that, if possible, the king might be moved from his present thoughts on temperance and virtue, to the looser phantasies of dalliance and love.

The orders of Lemack were always executed with precipitation; the vizir, impatient in his purposes, would brook no delay, so that neither rank nor condition was considered, but every beauteous female within the Persian empire was suddenly dragged to the royal seraglio.

Out of these the artful Lemack chose thirty, who surpassed the rest in proportion, beauty, elegance.

elegance, and grace, and led them, adorned with the sumptuous luxury of the east, to the painted dome, where the royal Adhim constantly refreshed himself as soon as he arose from his mid-day slumbers.

The sultan, who, though he had banished Mirglip from his presence, could not banish him from his thoughts, was displeased at the officious zeal of his vizir, and ordered Lemack to retire with his females.

Lemack seeing the determined countenance of his sultan, was obliged to obey, and he made the signal for the virgins of Persia to retire from the painted dome.

The sultan, though indifferent, could not help observing the joy which one of the females expressed at the signal of Lemack the vizir. During the time of their standing in the painted dome, her eyes were cast on the ground, and her arms were folded in despair; but when she heard the voice of Lemack commanding them to retire, she alone lift up her sparkling eyes in transport to Heaven, while every other female was disgusted at their sultan's neglect.

"Vizir," said Adhim, "who is she among the virgins of Persia, that rejoiceth to be driven from the presence of her sultan?"

The fair Nourenhi, (for that was the name of the virgin) started at the voice of Adhim; she perceived that the sultan had noticed her transports, and the pale mantle of fear overspread her cheeks.

But the fear of Nourenhi could not deprive her beauteous frame of its delicate symmetry,

not

nor her lovely black eyes of their radiant lustre.

"O Alla!" said Adhim, as he beheld her, "who art thou, O virgin of Persia, whose limbs are like the polished pillars of the temple; whose breasts heave like the roe panting for the thicket; and the arch of whose forehead is glorious as the enlightened hemisphere?"

"Lord of thy slaves, and terror of the earth," answered Nourenhi, "thou seest at thy feet the daughter of a poor countryman, whose age and infirmities are now without support; since ten days was my dear sister Kaphira stolen from his embrace, and now is thy handmaid dragged from his trembling arms."

"The man who, but in thought, hath injured him who gave thee life, O daughter of Heaven," said Adhim, stooping to raise her, "shall meet the fierce resentment of this arm."

"Lemack," continued Adhim hastily, "from whence came this fragrant flower? Has she been plucked by force, O vizir, from her parent stock? or, by her beauties awed, led ye her hither as the queen of Persia?"

"Author of mercy," answered the vizir, "this flower by chance we found, and who her parents are, thy Lemack knows not."

"To thee then must I kneel," said the fond Adhim, "thou master-piece of nature, to know, from what deep mine thy artless lustres sprang; that in the plains of Orez I may plant the whole family of my beloved, and heap such honours on them as Persia's throne may give and thy fair beauties merit."

To

“To frugal virtue long inured,” answered the fair weeping Nourenhi, “my aged sire would curse his daughter, should you transplant him here.—Curse! said I; alas, I wrong my gentle sire! No, sultan, sweet endearing smiles hang ever on his cheek, and what he thinks amiss, in such soft accent is pronounced, that even guilt is pleased to hear itself condemned.”

“By the great founder of our faith,” said Adhim, “described by such fair lips, and such soft words as thine, thy peasant father seems a saint to me! O what power is in those lips, to make whomever you please as amiable as you are. But name him, beauteous virgin, that Lemack, with a sumptuous embassy may court him to our presence.”

“Forgive me, mighty sultan,” said the fair Nourenhi, “but I dare not; for when the panders of thy royal court came to the happy grove which late in vain concealed thy slave, ‘Nourenhi,’ said my sire, ‘let no man know this safe retreat, which long hath hid thy father from the eyes of power.’”

“If such were his commands, thou shalt obey him, fair Nourenhi,” said the sultan; and hereafter, when the imperial diadem of Persia glitters on thy brow, thou shalt surprise him with thy presence, and tell his aged, unbelieving heart, that Adhim is his son-in-law.”

“Alla forbid,” replied Nourenhi firmly, “that e’er his daughter should so soon forget the temperate lessons of her tender sire! No, royal Adhim, Nourenhi long hath learned to value the
chaste

chaste Mirglip's virtues more than all the splendors of the Persian throne."

"So!" said Adhim, pausing; "vizir, this is well! unsatisfied with his drunken lusts, this hypocrite hath also gained the Persian females to his interest."

"Bred from our infant years together," said Nourenhi, "we long have lived with an holy love, and Alla and his prophet oft have heard our plighted faith."

"No more!" said Adhim. "Slaves, remove this daring female from my sight.—And, vizir," continued the sultan, "let the ax this moment fall, and free the realms of Persia from the hypocrisies of Mirglip."

The mutes and the vizir both hastened to obey the sultan. Nourenhi, with folded hands and streaming eyes, in vain besought his pity; the mutes hurried her from the presence of Adhim, and the sultan was left alone in the painted dome.

Adhim enraged, seated himself on his sofa, and impatiently desired the return of the vizir with the head of Mirglip; but hearing a noise in the court beneath, he looked forth through the lattice-work of the dome, expecting that Lemack, to please him, had ordered the execution of Mirglip within sight of the dome.

But the corpulent sides of the vizir had so far retarded the speed of his malice, that he hardly reached the court, when Adhim looked forth through the lattice-work of the dome, where he saw Lemack stopped in his course by two reverend imans, who kneeled before him.

"Vicegerent of Persia," said the first to Lemack, "we come to inform our sultan of
one

one who has dared to abuse the sacred ears of justice with the tales of falsehood."

"Vile, doating priests," said the vizir Lemack, panting for breath, "avaunt! our sultan is too wise to listen to the dreams of priests: and mark me, reverend grey beards, if again, with step officious, you enter the palace of our royal master, I will send your heads aloft above the gates, to preach without your bodies."

"Vizir," said Adhim, opening the lattice of the dome, "I will not have the servants of my God disgraced without a cause; if, contrary to their faith, they have offended against our laws, I bid thee, vizir, be severe; as they who teach, should practise first the duties they enforce; but if led alone by honest truth, they come to warn me of some secret falsehood, they, vizir, act as duteous servants to their prince, and I will honour them. Venerable imans," continued the sultan, "you, who have a free access to Alla, shall never want access to me: yet take heed, and use these sacred freedoms as becomes the ministers of truth: a flattering priest, who bids us look to Heaven, that he may ransack the earth, shall meet with Alla's curse, and man's abhorrence."

The vizir Lemack, finding he was overlooked, endeavoured to retract from his severity.

"Glory of the earth," said he to Adhim, "I have indeed injured these children of our prophet; warm with indignation, that Mirglip should so often offend my prince, not
even

even the messengers of Heaven could stop my fury, and those whom in my cooler hours I love to honour, the favourites of Mahomet, these holy imans of our faith, have I with hasty words abused."

"It is enough, O Lemack," said Adhim from the window; "I know thy temper is jealous of thy prince's honour: but bring these holy men before me, and till their audience be passed, let Mirglip live."

Lemack obeyed with a dissembled alacrity, and taking each man by the hand, he led them upwards towards the painted dome, blessing Alla aloud, who had placed him in the midst of two such holy supporters.

The imans, entering the dome, fell prostrate before Adhim, who commanded them to declare the cause of their coming.

"O thou prince," said the elder, "to whom Alla hath committed the government of thy people, forgive the boldness of thy slaves, who come to declare to thee the innocence of thy servant Mirglip."

"Good old men," said the sultan to them, "look well that you do not utter falsehood before me; the villanies of Mirglip are too glaring to be covered over by a specious tale."

"Lord of Persia," answered the first iman, "it is now six days since the vizir and his guards came into our district to seize on Mirglip; and we knew not till yesterday that he was accused of drunkenness, by a merchant who lodged at his house, or we might long ere this have refuted the calumnies of the merchant."

"Mir-

“Mirglip, O prince, the night before his imprisonment, came to us, and with distressed looks informed us that a stranger was taken ill under his roof, who was so overpowered with fatigue, that he besought him to give him a cup of wine, lest he should die: ‘wherefore, good iman,’ said the charitable Mirglip, ‘let me beseech you to haste to his assistance, that ere the veil of death be drawn over him, his soul may be comforted by your religious prayers.’

“The words of Mirglip were so urgent, that we both hastened to gird ourselves, to follow him to the house; where we found a merchant on the ground, who assured us that he had but a few moments to live.

“Mirglip joined in our devotions; and we spent the greater part of the night in prayers to our prophet: till the base merchant, pretending to be relieved by our prayers, arose from the ground, and begged leave to repose himself on the sofa.

“Mirglip yielded to his intreaties, and we departed from our friend’s house; but not till he had poured forth into the yard the remainder of the wine which the merchant had left, lest his slaves should taste of it, and break the law of their prophet.”

“Vizir,” said Adhim, as the first iman had finished his relation, “let these good men be detained in the palace, till the criers of the city have given the merchant notice to appear before my throne; and in the mean time defer the execution of Mirglip till the truth of this tale be made manifest.”

Lemack went forth to obey the sultan with

an heavy heart, for he supposed that his friend the sorcerer was returned to his cave, and he knew there was no opportunity of seeing him; till night had closed the eyes of the inhabitants of Raglai.

The criers having in vain summoned the fictitious merchant, returned to the palace, and assured the sultan, that no one could discover to them the merchant who had accused Mirglip.

"There is yet," said Adhim, "one circumstance that may declare the truth. For as none have had access to Mirglip, whom in our hasty zeal we would not hear, he cannot know these imans tale, if out of kindness they have forged it to release their friend."

The sultan Adhim then commanded the prisoner Mirglip to be brought before him: "but," said he to Lemack, "vizir, attend him to our presence, that no officious look or speech betray the purport of our calling him. — And imans," said he, "do ye retire into that apartment, where, unseen, you may be witnesses of your friend's defence."

As Lemack entered the dungeon of Mirglip, the unfortunate youth doubted not but that he was the messenger of his death; for Lemack seldom visited the royal prisons, except he came on some malicious errand.

But the vizir, who began to fear, lest he should have appeared too officious in condemning Mirglip; and doubting not but the love of Nourenhi would soon work his destruction, resolved to put on the appearance of friendship, that, should every engine fail, the

promotion of Mirglip might not be the means of his own discredit.

Wherefore Lemack endeavoured to divest himself of that surly frown which usually hung upon his bloated face, and with awkward flattery he addressed the unfortunate prisoner:—

“ They that are all goodness need not fear the malice of their enemies, for Mahomet will guard them from hurt, and make the worst of men their friends. As to my part, Mirglip, I am astonished at thy goodness, and have severely chid all the officers of state, that they did not tell me of your virtues, that while my royal master Adhim had been employed in the glories of creation, I might have had the satisfaction of preferring the most religious of mankind.”

“ Whatever is my sultan’s pleasure,” said Mirglip, bowing, “ I submit.”

“ My sultan,” said Lemack, somewhat offended, “ hath, at my request, resolved to hear thy defence; therefore haste with me unto the royal presence, and as you well are able, tell some well-coined tale before him, till his soft heart relent, and pardon follow.”

“ If truth deserves no pardon,” said Mirglip firmly, “ falsehood ever must deserve it less.”

The vizir replied not, but led Mirglip through the dungeon into the painted dome; for he perceived the young Persian suspected his sincerity, and pride and resentment prevailed over his hypocrisy.

Adhim having examined Mirglip, found by his answers that the imams had declared the

truth.

truth, and that the strange merchant had belied the innocent Persian.

Lemack, who feared the truth would prevail, was confounded at the noble simplicity of Mirglip; yet was he the first, at the permission of Adhim, to release the two imans, and congratulate them on the success of their information.

Adhim was also confounded at the patience and submission of Mirglip, who neither betrayed any fear in his condemnation, nor seemed elated by the gracious acquittal of his prince.

But in the midst of his admiration, the beauties of Nourenhi possessed his soul; and the sacrifice which he dared not make to his pride, the sultan resolved to offer to his love.

“Lemack,” said the sultan, “dismiss these venerable imans with costly presents, that my subjects may know, that Adhim will honour those who will boldly endeavour to relieve the oppressed.”

The imans being dismissed, “Vizir,” said the sultan, “bring the fair Nourenhi into my presence, that I may know by what arts this base man hath practised on her innocence.”

At the mention of Nourenhi’s name the pale Mirglip sighed, and all his precaution could not prevent the visible marks of fear which possessed his countenance.

“Ah! base peasant,” said Adhim, “thy guilty conscience has taken the alarm; well mayest thou sigh to think thy iniquitous purpose is revealed, and that thy prince is witness of thy fraud.”

"If to love the fairest of her sex," said Mirgrip; "if to engage in vows of constancy, with those whom Alla gave as social blessings to mankind; if, in obedience to the laws of nature, to follow those affections which religion sanctifies; if these be crimes," said Mirgrip, "then hath Mirgrip greatly erred."

"I did suppose," said Adhim, "that a man possessed like Mirgrip with a temperate soul, had no occasion for the dreams of love: though to the world you seem austere, yet to Nourenhi you can relent, young man; and while you preach of virtue, teach her dalliance."

"Virtue, I have heard, O sultan," said Mirgrip, "reaches not the rigid, nor the soft extremes; she never dissolves in wanton luxury, nor plants her foot, without occasion, on the prickly thorn: with the fair Nourenhi I first imbibed the lessons of our prophet; and while we hung attentive on the honeyed lip of her dear father Fincal, we both resolved to aid each other through life's rugged trial."

"The good old dervise saw our rising love, and checked it not: 'But children,' said he, 'restrain its bounds, and let prudence and religion lead it onward to your mutual peace.'

"From that hour, O sultan, we gave our plighted faith; and had not these unforeseen misfortunes hindered us, to-morrow's sun was destined to behold our marriages rites."

"False slave," said Adhim, "amuse me not with such a senseless tale: but here comes our faithful vizir with his beauteous charge."

Lemack

Lemack then entered the painted dome, leading the fair Nourenhi, supported by a female slave.

The stately Nourenhi entered with downcast eyes : and beheld not her beloved Mirglip, till the sultan commanded her to look up, and cast her eyes upon her prince.

Nourenhi shrieked at the sight of Mirglip, and Lemack rejoiced to see the agitation of his sultan, when he perceived the love-sick eyes of the beauteous virgin.

"Virgin," said Adhim, "take thy sultan to thy arms, or see my vizir make an instant sacrifice of Mirglip."

The eyes of Lemack sparkled at the speech of his sultan, and he stretched forth his hand to seize on his scymitar.

"If my perpetual absence from this loved image will please thee, sultan," said Nourenhi, "I consent; but never can my heart desert it's vow."

"Then Mirglip," said the sultan, "yield her to me, and I will place thee next myself upon the throne of Persia."

At these words the heart of Lemack failed, for he doubted not but Mirglip would consent.

"Prince of thy people," answered Mirglip, "how shall I answer the proposal of my sultan, who wishes Mirglip to falsify his oath?"

"It is enough," said Adhim, "I perceive both are fixed : Lemack, invent some punishment that may reach their crimes "

"For Mirglip," said the vizir, drawing forth his scymitar, "this shining blade shall

soon suffice ; but Lemack leaves the beautiful female to her master's mercy, who yet may see, when this base peasant is destroyed, new beams of sprightliness awake within her."

" Hold vizir," said the sultan, " for Adhim likes not the meanness of thy poor revenge ; no, Lemack, thy sultan only can devise a punishment adequate to their crimes."

" Mirglip," continued the sultan, " and you, proud, haughty fair, draw near."

Mirglip and Nourenhi slowly obeyed the commands of Adhim, falling prostrate before him, and both seemed more to fear for each other than for themselves.

" Love, vassals," said Adhim, drawing forth his scymitar, " was your crime ; be love your punishment ; rise and enjoy each other, and so far shall Adhim be from separating your constant hearts, that I now draw this shining scymitar against your enemies, and he who loves not Mirglip and Nourenhi is a traitor to his prince. Nor think it, constant pair, a small conquest I have made : for even yet, while reason and while justice persuade me to bless you, intemperance and passion urge to your destruction ; therefore withdraw, lest some fond sigh from fair Nourenhi's breast kindle anew the fever of my blood."

Lemack, who was thunderstruck at the unexpected change, had time, in some measure, to recover while Adhim spoke ; and, courtier like, he employed it in framing a compliment, which, though true, yet came but awkwardly from the mouth of the fat speaker.

" Thou

"Thou hast, indeed, most noble sultan, blessed this happy pair: now let not Mirglip's temperance be more remembered, for thou, O Adhim, by this single deed, hast shewn more mastery of thy passions than this Persian has achieved in all his life."

"True, noble vizir," answered the thankful Mirglip, "to obey the dictates of temperance and virtue, where obedience is our greatest pleasure and our best reward, argues but little merit; to boast in such a cause were to call natural appetite a virtue; but to give up desire, possession, and a hundred fancied charms, to follow rigid virtue, this indeed ennobles man, and makes the prince the people's parent, and his subject's joy."

"Nor think, O virtuous sultan," said the fair Nourenhi, falling at his feet, "that thy slave's beauties are too great to gaze on, though glowing with a sense of royal Adhim's generous kindness; shall not these watery eyes, which thou hast blest, O sultan, reflect more pleasure on thy soul than all the brutal joys which force could give thee? Yes, noble Adhim," continued she, clasping his knees, "thou art our father and our prince, and from thy bounties, as from the lofty mountains, flow the streams of goodness on thy lowly slaves."

The generous Adhim, overcome by the gratitude of his slaves, dropped his arms on them, as they kneeled at his feet, and wept over them, and said to his vizir, with a sigh, "Lemack, I feel more joy in this one action than all my labours past have ever given me; but
I long

I long to see the reverend father of this beautiful virgin, from whom such virtues are derived.

“Joy of thy slaves, and sovereign of hearts,” answered Mirglip, “we are bound by every tie to do as thou commandest; and the good Fincal, when he hears how greatly Adhim has condescended to bless his slave, will doubtless haste to fall prostrate before thy footstool.”

“There is no need of that,” answered Adhim, “your father, doubtless, wishes not again to enter the busy scene of life, and mix with anxious courtiers; and much instruction shall thy sultan lose, if Fincal regards me as the prince of Persia; for though the sovereign of a kingdom, I am not yet above the wise directions of a temperate sage, whose heart, uncantered with the rust of gold, sends forth the purest streams of piety and truth: yes, Mirglip, I am resolved in secret disguise to tread those paths where thou hast learned the first great wisdom, to be good; that I may kindle at the glorious presence of your animating sage, and treasure up such knowledge as shall bless thy people.”

The astonished Lemack heard the resolutions of Adhim with surprise, and feared lest his sultan should require his presence at the mortifying lectures of the good dervise of the groves; but his grim countenance shone with joy, when Adhim, taking him aside, declared his intentions of leaving the reins of government in his hands till his return.

The subtle vizir hearing his resolutions, fell at his sultan's feet, and besought him not to think

think of hazarding his life alone amongst strangers; and that if he was resolved to persist, at least he hoped that he would take him to the dervise, that he might enjoy both the company of his prince and the lessons of the sage.

The unsuspicious sultan assured his vizir that he should take all necessary precautions, but that Lemack must submit to hold the reins of government till his return; and in the mean time, he commanded his vizir to send for a cadî, and to make all preparations in the palace for the nuptials of Mirglip and Nourenhi.

The city of Raglai, and the inhabitants of the plain of Orez, were surprised at the sudden alteration of Mirglip's favour, which was soon published about the palaces and cities; and every wish was, that Adhim would resume the power of administering justice to his people, and not leave his slaves in the hands of the vizir Lemack.

Adhim caused the nuptials of Mirglip and Nourenhi to be celebrated with all magnificence; and Mirglip, who had received so much from the hands of his prince, easily submitted to the pageantry of the court.

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